

Bôcher and abstract contractions of 2nd order quadratic algebras

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Abstract. Two-dimensional quadratic algebras are generalizations of Lie algebras which include the symmetry algebras of 2nd order superintegrable systems in 2 dimensions as special cases. The superintegrable systems are exactly solvable physical systems in classical and quantum mechanics. Distinct superintegrable systems and their quadratic algebras can be related by geometric contractions, induced by Bôcher contractions of the conformal Lie algebra $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ to itself. In this paper we give a precise definition of Bôcher contractions and show how they can be classified. They subsume well known contractions of $e(2, \mathbb{C})$ and $so(3, \mathbb{C})$ and have important physical and geometric meanings, such as the derivation of the Askey scheme for obtaining all hypergeometric orthogonal polynomials as limits of Racah/Wilson polynomials. We also classify abstract nondegenerate quadratic algebras in terms of an invariant that we call a canonical form. We describe an algorithm for finding the canonical form of such algebras. We calculate explicitly all canonical forms arising from quadratic algebras of 2D nondegenerate superintegrable systems on constant curvature spaces and Darboux spaces. We further discuss contraction of quadratic algebras, focusing on those coming from superintegrable systems.

Key words: contractions; quadratic algebras; superintegrable systems; conformal superintegrability

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1 Introduction

Second order 2D superintegrable systems and their associated quadratic symmetry algebras are basic in mathematical physics. Among the simplest such solvable systems are the 2D Kepler and hydrogen atom and the isotropic and Higgs oscillators, [1, 2]. All the systems are multiseparable, with the quantum separable solutions characterized as eigenfunctions of commuting operators in the quadratic algebras. The separation equations are the Gaussian hypergeometric equation and its various confluent forms in full generality, as well as the Heun equation and its confluent forms in full generality, [3]. Solutions of the hypergeometric and Heun equations are linked

through their solution of the same superintegrable system. The confluences are related to Bôcher contractions of the conformal algebra $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ to itself, [4]. The interbasis expansion coefficients relating distinct separable systems lead to other special functions, several of them functions of discrete variables, such as the Racah, Wilson and Hahn polynomials in full generality, [5]. The contractions also allow the derivation of the Askey scheme for the classification of hypergeometric orthogonal polynomials. The classification of quasi-exactly solvable (QES) systems based on the Heun operator coincide exactly with QES separation equations for these superintegrable systems, [6, 7].

In short, the structure and classification of these quadratic algebras and their relations via contractions are matters of considerable significance in mathematical physics. Historically, the superintegrable systems have been classified and their associated quadratic algebras then computed. Here we are reversing the process: we first classify abstract quadratic algebras and then determine which of these correspond to 2nd order superintegrable systems. Also we determine how the abstract quadratic algebras are related via contractions and examine which of these contractions can be realized geometrically as Bôcher contractions. The eventual goal is to isolate the algebras and contractions that do not correspond to geometrical superintegrable systems and to determine their significance.

Bôcher invented a recipe for a limit procedure which showed how to find what we now know are all R-separable coordinate systems for free Laplace and wave equations in n dimensions, [8]. We have recently recognized that these limits can be interpreted as contractions of $so(n+2, \mathbb{C})$ to itself and classified; we call them Bôcher contractions. In this paper we give for the first time the precise definition of these contractions and their properties and classification for the case $n = 2$.

We start with some basic facts. We define a quantum (Helmholtz) superintegrable system as an integrable Hamiltonian system on an n -dimensional pseudo-Riemannian manifold with potential: $H = \Delta_n + V$ that admits $2n-1$ algebraically independent partial differential operators L_j commuting with H , the maximum possible: $[H, L_j] = 0$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, 2n-1$. Similarly a classical superintegrable on such a manifold, with Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H} = \sum g^{ij} p_i p_j + V$, is an integrable system that admits $2n-1$ functionally independent constants of the motion \mathcal{L}_j , polynomial in the momenta, in involution with \mathcal{H} , the maximum possible. Superintegrability captures the properties of quantum Hamiltonian systems that allow the Schrödinger eigenvalue problem (or Helmholtz equation) $H\Psi = E\Psi$ to be solved exactly, analytically and algebraically, [1, 2, 9–11] and the classical trajectories to be computed algebraically. A system is of order K if the maximum order of the symmetry operators (or the polynomial order of the classical constants of the motion), other than H , is K . For $n = 2$, $K = 1, 2$ all systems are known, e.g. [12, 13]. For $K = 1$ the symmetry algebras are just Lie algebras.

We review briefly the facts for *free* 2nd order superintegrable systems, (i.e., no potential, $K = 2$) in the case $n = 2, 2n-1 = 3$. The complex spaces with Laplace-Beltrami operators admitting at least three 2nd order symmetries were classified by Koenigs (1896), [14]. They are: the two constant curvature spaces (flat space and the complex sphere), the four Darboux spaces (one of which, D4, contains a parameter), see §1.1, [15], and 6 families of 4-parameter Koenigs spaces, see §1.1. For 2nd order systems with non-constant potential the generating symmetry operators of each system close under commutation (or via Poisson brackets in the classical case) to determine a quadratic algebra, and the irreducible representations of the quantum algebra determine the eigenvalues of H and their multiplicities. More precisely, in the classical case, closedness means that the Poisson algebra generated by the constants of motion is finitely generated as an associative algebra. The quantum case is defined analogously. Here we consider only the nondegenerate superintegrable systems: Those with 4-parameter potentials (including the additive constant) (the maximum possible):

$$V(\mathbf{x}) = a_1 V_{(1)}(\mathbf{x}) + a_2 V_{(2)}(\mathbf{x}) + a_3 V_{(3)}(\mathbf{x}) + a_4, \quad (1)$$

where $\{V_{(1)}(\mathbf{x}), V_{(2)}(\mathbf{x}), V_{(3)}(\mathbf{x}), 1\}$ is a linearly independent set. Here the possible classical and quantum potentials are identical and there is a 1-1 relationship between classical and quantum systems. The classical constants of the motion determine the quantum symmetry operators, modulo symmetrization. The classical symmetry algebra generated by $\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2$ always closes under commutation and gives the following nondegenerate quadratic algebra structure:

Definition 1. An abstract *nondegenerate (classical) quadratic algebra* is a Poisson algebra with functionally independent generators $\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2$, and parameters a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 , such that all generators are in involution with \mathcal{H} and the following relations hold:

$$\{\mathcal{L}_j, \mathcal{R}\} = \sum_{0 \leq e_1 + e_2 + e_3 \leq 2} M_{e_1, e_2, e_3}^{(j)} \mathcal{L}_1^{e_1} \mathcal{L}_2^{e_2} \mathcal{H}^{e_3}, \quad e_k \geq 0, \mathcal{L}_k^0 = 1. \quad (2)$$

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{F} \equiv \sum_{0 \leq e_1 + e_2 + e_3 \leq 3} N_{e_1, e_2, e_3} \mathcal{L}_1^{e_1} \mathcal{L}_2^{e_2} \mathcal{H}^{e_3} \quad (3)$$

In both equations the constants $M_{e_1, e_2, e_3}^{(j)}$ and N_{e_1, e_2, e_3} are polynomials in the parameters a_1, a_2, a_3 of degree $2 - e_1 - e_2 - e_3$ and $3 - e_1 - e_2 - e_3$, respectively. The symmetry algebras obeyed by the quantum superintegrable systems have a similar structure, slightly more complicated due to the need for symmetrization of the noncommuting operators. In the case $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = a_4 = 0$, the corresponding quadratic algebras are called *free*.

Note that we can think of a nondegenerate (classical or quantum) quadratic algebra as a family of algebras parametrized by the constants a_i .

Nondegenerate 2D superintegrable systems always have a quadratic algebra structure in which the parameters a_j are those of the potential; we call these quadratic algebras *geometrical*.

Although the full sets of classical structure equations can be rather complicated, the function \mathcal{F} contains all of the structure information for nondegenerate systems. In particular, it is easy to show that, e.g. [16],

$$\{\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{R}\} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathcal{L}_2}, \quad \{\mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{R}\} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathcal{L}_1}, \quad (4)$$

so the function \mathcal{F} determines the structure equations explicitly.

For a nondegenerate superintegrable system with potential (1) the structure equations are determined by $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)$ as defined above. The effect of a Stäckel transform [17] generated by the a specific special choice of the potential function, say $V_{(3)}$ is to determine a new superintegrable system with Casimir $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}^2 = \mathcal{F}(-a_3, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, a_1, a_2, -\mathcal{H}, a_4)$. Of course, the switch of a_3 and \mathcal{H} is only for illustration; there is a Stäckel transform that replaces any a_j by $-\mathcal{H}$ and \mathcal{H} by $-a_j$ and similar transforms that apply to any basis that we choose for the potential space.

If we consider the free systems (zero potential which is the case with all parameters equal zero) on the spaces classified by Koenigs, then the vector space of 2nd order symmetries may be larger than 3: 6-dimensional for constant curvature spaces, 4-dimensional for Darboux spaces, and 3-dimensional for Koenigs spaces. In general the Poisson algebras generated by taking Poisson brackets of these 2nd order elements are infinite dimensional; they do not close (in the sense that was explained above). However, in [16], the possible 3-dimensional subspaces of 2nd order free symmetries that generate quadratic algebras were classified, up to conjugacy by symmetry groups of these spaces: $e(2, \mathbb{C})$ for flat space, $o(3, \mathbb{C})$ for nonzero constant curvature spaces, and a 1-dimensional translation subalgebra for Darboux spaces. For Koenigs spaces the first order symmetry algebra is 0-dimensional and the space of 2nd order symmetries is 3-dimensional which always generates a unique quadratic algebra.

Theorem 1. *For each of the spaces classified by Koenigs, there is a bijection between free quadratic algebras of 2nd order symmetries, classified up to conjugacy, and 2nd order nondegenerate superintegrable systems on these spaces.*

The proof of this theorem is constructive, [16]. Given a free quadratic algebra \tilde{Q} one can compute the potential V and the symmetries of the quadratic algebra Q of the nondegenerate superintegrable system. (The quadratic algebra structure guarantees that the Bertrand-Darboux equations for the potential are satisfied identically. In this sense the free systems “know” via pure algebraic methods, the possible nondegenerate superintegrable systems they can support. Since there is a 1-1 relationship between quantum and classical nondegenerate systems, the information about all of these systems is encoded in the free quadratic algebras generated by 2nd order constants of the motion (Killing tensors) of constant curvature, Darboux and Koenigs spaces. Note that for flat space the generators for the free quadratic algebras can be expressed as 2nd order elements in the universal enveloping algebra of $e(2, \mathbb{C})$, and for nonzero constant curvature spaces the generators for the free quadratic algebras can be expressed as 2nd order elements in the universal enveloping algebra of $so(3, \mathbb{C})$, [16].

All 2nd order 2D superintegrable systems with potential and their quadratic algebras are known. There are 33 nondegenerate systems, on a variety of manifolds classified up to conjugacy, see §1.1 where the numbering for constant curvature systems is taken from [18], (the numbers are not always consecutive because the lists in [18] also include degenerate systems) and the numbering for Darboux spaces is taken from [15]. For each system we give the 4-parameter potential and the abstract free structure equation $\mathcal{R}^2 - \mathcal{F} = 0$. Note that many of the abstract structure equations for the superintegrable systems are identical, even for superintegrable systems on different manifolds. Of course the geometrical structure equations are distinct because the generators $\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{H}$ are distinct for each geometrical superintegrable system.

Under the Stäckel transform (we discuss this in §2.1) these systems divide into 6 equivalence classes with representatives on flat space and the 2-sphere, [19], §3.1.

1.1 The Helmholtz nondegenerate superintegrable systems

Flat space systems: $\mathcal{H} \equiv p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V = E$.

1. E1: $V = \alpha(x^2 + y^2) + \frac{\beta}{x^2} + \frac{\gamma}{y^2}$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 (\mathcal{H} + \mathcal{L}_2)$,
2. E2: $V = \alpha(4x^2 + y^2) + \beta x + \frac{\gamma}{y^2}$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^2 (\mathcal{H} + \mathcal{L}_1)$,
3. E3': $V = \alpha(x^2 + y^2) + \beta x + \gamma y$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = 0$,
4. E7: $V = \frac{\alpha(x+iy)}{\sqrt{(x+iy)^2 - b}} + \frac{\beta(x-iy)}{\sqrt{(x+iy)^2 - b} \left(x+iy + \sqrt{(x+iy)^2 - b} \right)^2} + \gamma(x^2 + y^2)$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2^2 + b \mathcal{L}_2 \mathcal{H}^2$,
5. E8: $V = \frac{\alpha(x-iy)}{(x+iy)^3} + \frac{\beta}{(x+iy)^2} + \gamma(x^2 + y^2)$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2^2$,
6. E9: $V = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{x+iy}} + \beta y + \frac{\gamma(x+2iy)}{\sqrt{x+iy}}$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 (\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{H})^2$,
7. E10: $V = \alpha(x - iy) + \beta(x + iy - \frac{3}{2}(x - iy)^2) + \gamma(x^2 + y^2 - \frac{1}{2}(x - iy)^3)$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3$,
8. E11: $V = \alpha(x - iy) + \frac{\beta(x-iy)}{\sqrt{x+iy}} + \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{x+iy}}$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{H}^2$,
9. E15: $V = f(x - iy)$, where f is arbitrary. $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3$. The exceptional case, characterized by the fact that the symmetry generators are functionally linearly dependent, [12, 18].

10. E16: $V = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}(\alpha + \frac{\beta}{y+\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} + \frac{\gamma}{y-\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}), \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1(\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H} + \mathcal{L}_2^2),$
11. E17: $V = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} + \frac{\beta}{(x+iy)^2} + \frac{\gamma}{(x+iy)\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2,$
12. E19: $V = \frac{\alpha(x+iy)}{\sqrt{(x+iy)^2-4}} + \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{(x-iy)(x+iy+2)}} + \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{(x-iy)(x+iy-2)}}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1(\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{H}^2),$
13. E20: $V = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} \left(\alpha + \beta\sqrt{x + \sqrt{x^2+y^2}} + \gamma\sqrt{x - \sqrt{x^2+y^2}} \right), \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{L}_1^2 + \mathcal{L}_2^2),$

Systems on the complex 2-sphere: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \mathcal{J}_{23}^2 + \mathcal{J}_{13}^2 + \mathcal{J}_{12}^2 + V = E$. Here, $\mathcal{J}_{k\ell} = s_k p_{s_\ell} - s_\ell p_{s_k}$ and $s_1^2 + s_2^2 + s_3^2 = 1$.

1. S1: $V = \frac{\alpha}{(s_1+is_2)^2} + \frac{\beta s_3}{(s_1+is_2)^2} + \frac{\gamma(1-4s_3^2)}{(s_1+is_2)^4}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3,$
2. S2: $V = \frac{\alpha}{s_3^2} + \frac{\beta}{(s_1+is_2)^2} + \frac{\gamma(s_1-is_2)}{(s_1+is_2)^3}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2,$
3. S4: $V = \frac{\alpha}{(s_1+is_2)^2} + \frac{\beta s_3}{\sqrt{s_1^2+s_2^2}} + \frac{\gamma}{(s_1+is_2)\sqrt{s_1^2+s_2^2}}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2,$
4. S7: $V = \frac{\alpha s_3}{\sqrt{s_1^2+s_2^2}} + \frac{\beta s_1}{s_2^2\sqrt{s_1^2+s_2^2}} + \frac{\gamma}{s_2^2}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_2^2\mathcal{L}_1 - \frac{1}{16}\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{H},$
5. S8: $V = \frac{\alpha s_2}{\sqrt{s_1^2+s_3^2}} + \frac{\beta(s_2+is_1+s_3)}{\sqrt{(s_2+is_1)(s_3+is_1)}} + \frac{\gamma(s_2+is_1-s_3)}{\sqrt{(s_2+is_1)(s_3-is_1)}}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 - \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H},$
6. S9: $V = \frac{\alpha}{s_1^2} + \frac{\beta}{s_2^2} + \frac{\gamma}{s_3^2}, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \frac{1}{16}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H},$

Darboux 1 systems: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{4x}(p_x^2 + p_y^2) + V = E$.

1. D1A: $V = \frac{b_1(2x-2b+iy)}{x\sqrt{x-b+iy}} + \frac{b_2}{x\sqrt{x-b+iy}} + \frac{b_3}{x} + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H} - b\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{H} - 2ib\mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_2,$
2. D1B: $V = \frac{b_1(4x^2+y^2)}{x} + \frac{b_2}{x} + \frac{b_3}{xy^2} + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H},$
3. D1C: $V = \frac{b_1(x^2+y^2)}{x} + \frac{b_2}{x} + \frac{b_3y}{x} + b_4. \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H}^2.$

Darboux 2 systems: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{x^2}{x^2+1}(p_x^2 + p_y^2) + V = E$.

1. D2A: $V = \frac{x^2}{x^2+1} \left(b_1(x^2 + 4y^2) + \frac{b_2}{x^2} + b_3y \right) + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{H} + \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H}^2,$
2. D2B: $V = \frac{x^2}{x^2+1} \left(b_1(x^2 + y^2) + \frac{b_2}{x^2} + \frac{b_3}{y^2} \right) + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H} - \frac{1}{16}\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H}^2,$
3. D2C: $V = \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}(x^2+1)} \left(b_1 + \frac{b_2}{y+\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} + \frac{b_3}{y-\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} \right) + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{H} - \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H}^2.$

Darboux 3 systems: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^{2x}}{e^x+1}(p_x^2 + p_y^2) + V = E$.

1. D3A: $V = \frac{b_1}{1+e^x} + \frac{b_2 e^x}{\sqrt{1+2e^{x+iy}}(1+e^x)} + \frac{b_3 e^{x+iy}}{\sqrt{1+2e^{x+iy}}(1+e^x)} + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{L}_1^2 + \mathcal{L}_2^2 - \mathcal{H}^2),$
2. D3B: $V = \frac{e^x}{e^x+1} \left(b_1 + e^{-\frac{x}{2}}(b_2 \cos \frac{y}{2} + b_3 \sin \frac{y}{2}) \right) + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1^2 - \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1,$
3. D3C: $V = \frac{e^x}{e^x+1} \left(b_1 + e^x \left(\frac{b_2}{\cos^2 \frac{y}{2}} + \frac{b_3}{\sin^2 \frac{y}{2}} \right) \right) + b_4, \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{H} - \frac{1}{8}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H}^2,$
4. D3D: $V = \frac{e^{2x}}{1+e^x}(b_1 e^{-iy} + b_2 e^{-2iy}) + \frac{b_3}{1+e^x} + b_4 \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H} + \mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H}^2 - \mathcal{H}^3.$

Darboux 4 systems: $\mathcal{H} \equiv -\frac{\sin^2 2x}{2 \cos 2x+b}(p_x^2 + p_y^2) + V = E$.

1. $D4(b)A$: $V = \frac{\sin^2 2x}{2 \cos 2x+b} \left(\frac{b_1}{\sinh^2 y} + \frac{b_2}{\sinh^2 2y} \right) + \frac{b_3}{2 \cos 2x+b} + b_4$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2^2$,
2. $D4(b)B$: $V = \frac{\sin^2 2x}{2 \cos 2x+b} \left(\frac{b_1}{\sin^2 2x} + b_2 e^{4y} + b_3 e^{2y} \right) + b_4$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + b \mathcal{H} \mathcal{L}_2^2 - 4 \mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_2$,
3. $D4(b)C$: $V = \frac{e^{2y}}{\frac{b+2}{\sin^2 x} + \frac{b-2}{\cos^2 x}} \left(\frac{b_1}{Z+(1-e^{2y})\sqrt{Z}} + \frac{b_2}{Z+(1+e^{2y})\sqrt{Z}} + \frac{b_3 e^{-2y}}{\cos^2 x} \right) + b_4$, $\mathcal{R}^2 = -\frac{b}{16^3} \mathcal{H}^3 + \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2^2 - \frac{b}{16} \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 \mathcal{H} - \frac{b}{16} \mathcal{L}_2^2 \mathcal{H} + \frac{1}{256} \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{H}^2$.

Generic Koenigs spaces: (We do not list the relatively unenlightening expressions of \mathcal{R}^2 for the Koenigs spaces. Each involves 4 arbitrary parameters obtained via a generic Stäckel transformation from a constant curvature system.)

1. $K[1, 1, 1, 1]$: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{V(b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)) = E$,
 $V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = \frac{a_1}{x^2} + \frac{a_2}{y^2} + \frac{4a_3}{(x^2+y^2-1)^2} - \frac{4a_4}{(x^2+y^2+1)^2}$,
2. $K[2, 1, 1]$: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{V(b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)) = E$,
 $V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = \frac{a_1}{x^2} + \frac{a_2}{y^2} - a_3(x^2 + y^2) + a_4$,
3. $K[2, 2]$: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{V(b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)) = E$,
 $V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = \frac{a_1}{(x+iy)^2} + \frac{a_2(x-iy)}{(x+iy)^3} + a_3 - a_4(x^2 + y^2)$,
4. $K[3, 1]$: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{V(b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)) = E$,
 $V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = a_1 - a_2x + a_3(4x^2 + y^2) + \frac{a_4}{y^2}$,
5. $K[4]$: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{V(b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)) = E$,
 $V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = a_1 - a_2(x + iy) + a_3(3(x + iy)^2 + 2(x - iy)) - a_4(4(x^2 + y^2) + 2(x + iy)^3)$,
6. $K[0]$: $\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{V(b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)) = E$,
 $V(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = a_1 - (a_2x + a_3y) + a_4(x^2 + y^2)$,

1.2 Contractions

In [16] it has been shown that all the 2nd order superintegrable systems are obtained by taking coordinate limits of the generic system S_9 , [18], or are obtained from these limits by a Stäckel transform (an invertible structure preserving mapping of superintegrable systems, [12]). Analogously all quadratic symmetry algebras of these systems are limits of that of S_9 . These coordinate limits induce limit relations between the special functions associated as eigenfunctions of the quantum superintegrable systems. The limits also induce contractions of the associated quadratic algebras, and via the models of the irreducible representations of these algebras, limit relations between the associated special functions. The Askey scheme for orthogonal functions of hypergeometric type is an example of this [5]. For constant curvature systems the required limits are all induced by Inönü-Wigner-type Lie algebra contractions of $o(3, \mathbb{C})$ and $e(2, \mathbb{C})$, [20–22]. Inönü-Wigner-type Lie algebra contractions have long been applied to relate separable coordinate systems and their associated special functions, see e.g. [23, 24] for some more recent examples, but the application to quadratic algebras is due to the authors and their collaborators.

Recall the definition of (natural) **Lie algebra contractions**: Let $(A; [\cdot, \cdot]_A)$, $(B; [\cdot, \cdot]_B)$ be two complex Lie algebras. We say that B is a *contraction* of A if for every $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$ there exists a linear invertible map $t_\epsilon : B \rightarrow A$ such that for every $X, Y \in B$, $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} t_\epsilon^{-1}[t_\epsilon X, t_\epsilon Y]_A = [X, Y]_B$. Thus, as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ the 1-parameter family of basis transformations can become nonsingular but the structure constants of the Lie algebra go to a finite limit, necessarily that of another Lie algebra. The contractions of the symmetry algebras of constant curvature spaces have long since been classified, [16]. There are 6 nontrivial contractions of $e(2, \mathbb{C})$ and 4 of $o(3, \mathbb{C})$. They are

each induced by coordinate limits. Just as for Lie algebras we can define a contraction of a quadratic algebra in terms of 1-parameter families of basis changes in the algebra: As $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ the 1-parameter family of basis transformations becomes singular but the structure constants go to a finite limit, [16].

Theorem 2. *Every Lie algebra contraction of $A = e(2, \mathbb{C})$ or $A = o(3, \mathbb{C})$ induces a contraction of a free (zero potential) quadratic algebra \tilde{Q} based on A , which in turn induces a contraction of the quadratic algebra Q with potential. This is true for both classical and quantum algebras.*

Similarly the coordinate limit associated with each contraction takes H to a new superintegrable system with the contracted quadratic algebra. This relationship between coordinate limits, Lie algebra contractions and quadratic algebra contractions for superintegrable systems on constant curvature spaces breaks down for Darboux and Koenigs spaces. For Darboux spaces the Lie symmetry algebra is only 1-dimensional, and there is no Lie symmetry algebra at all for Koenigs spaces. Furthermore, there is the issue of finding a more systematic way of classifying the 44 distinct Helmholtz superintegrable systems on different manifolds, and their relations. These issues can be clarified by considering the Helmholtz systems as Laplace equations (with potential) on flat space. As announced in [4], the proper object to study is the conformal symmetry algebra $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ of the flat space Laplacian and its contractions. The basic idea is that families of (Stäckel-equivalent) Helmholtz superintegrable systems on a variety of manifolds correspond to a single conformally superintegrable Laplace equation on flat space. We exploit this here in the case $n = 2$, but it generalizes easily to all dimensions $n \geq 2$. The conformal symmetry algebra for Laplace equations with constant potential on flat space is the conformal algebra $so(n + 2, \mathbb{C})$.

In his 1894 thesis [8] Bôcher introduced a limit procedure based on the roots of quadratic forms to find families of R-separable solutions of the ordinary (zero potential) flat space Laplace equation in n dimensions. An important feature of his work was the introduction of special projective coordinates in which the action of the conformal group $so(n + 2, \mathbb{C})$ on solutions of the Laplace equation can be linearized. For $n = 2$ these are tetraspherical coordinates. In §3 and §4 we describe in detail the Laplace equation mechanism and how it can be applied to systematize the classification of Helmholtz superintegrable systems and their relations via limits. We show that Bôcher's limit procedure can be interpreted as constructing generalized Inönü-Wigner Lie algebra contractions of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ to itself. We call these Bôcher contractions and show that they induce contractions of the conformal quadratic algebras associated with Laplace superintegrable systems. All of the limits of the Helmholtz systems classified before for $n = 2$, [16], [25], are induced by the larger class of Bôcher contractions [4]. In this paper we replace Bôcher's prescription by a precise definition of Bôcher contractions and introduce special Bôcher contractions, which are simpler and more easily classified.

2 2D conformal superintegrability of the 2nd order

Classical n D systems of Laplace type are of the form

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv \sum_{i,j=1}^n g^{ij} p_i p_j + V = 0. \quad (5)$$

A conformal symmetry of this equation is a function $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p})$ in the variables $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$, polynomial in the momenta $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$, such that $\{\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{H}\} = \mathcal{R}_\mathcal{S} \mathcal{H}$ for some function operator $\mathcal{R}_\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p})$. Two conformal symmetries $\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}'$ are identified if $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}' + \mathcal{R}_\mathcal{H}$ for some function $R(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p})$. (For short we will say that $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}' \pmod{(\mathcal{H})}$ and that \mathcal{S} is a conformal constant of the motion (or conformal symmetry) if $\{\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{H}\} = 0 \pmod{(\mathcal{H})}$.) The system is

conformally superintegrable for $n > 2$ if there are $2n - 1$ functionally independent conformal symmetries, $\mathcal{S}_1, \dots, \mathcal{S}_{2n-1}$ with $\mathcal{S}_1 = \mathcal{H}$. It is *second order conformally superintegrable* if each symmetry \mathcal{S}_i can be chosen to be a polynomial of at most second order in the momenta. There are obvious operator counterparts to these definitions for the operator Laplace equation $H\Psi \equiv (\Delta_n + V)\psi = 0$.

For $n = 2$ the definition must be restricted, since for a potential $V = 0$ there will be an infinite dimensional space of conformal symmetries. We assume $V \neq 0$, possibly a constant.

Every 2D Riemannian manifold is conformally flat, so we can always find a Cartesian-like coordinate system with coordinates $\mathbf{x} \equiv (x, y) \equiv (x_1, x_2)$ such that the Laplace equation takes the form

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \frac{1}{\lambda(x, y)}(p_x^2 + p_y^2) + \tilde{V}(\mathbf{x}) = 0. \quad (6)$$

However, this equation is equivalent to the flat space equation

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad V(\mathbf{x}) = \lambda(\mathbf{x})\tilde{V}(\mathbf{x}). \quad (7)$$

In particular, the conformal symmetries of (6) are identical with the conformal symmetries of (7). Thus without loss of generality we can assume the manifold is flat space with $\lambda \equiv 1$.

In general the space of 2nd order conformal symmetries could be infinite dimensional. However, the requirement that H have a multiparameter potential reduces the possible symmetries to a finite dimensional space. The result, from the Bertrand-Darboux conditions, is that the pure 2nd order polynomial terms in the momenta S_0 belong to the space spanned by symmetrized products of the conformal Killing vectors

$$P_1 = p_x, \quad P_2 = p_y, \quad J = xp_y - yp_x, \quad D = xp_x + yp_y, \quad (8)$$

$$K_1 = (x^2 - y^2)p_x + 2xyp_y, \quad K_2 = (y^2 - x^2)p_y + 2xyp_x.$$

For a given multiparameter potential only a subspace of these conformal tensors occurs.

2.1 The conformal Stäckel transform

We review briefly the concept of the conformal Stäckel transform [17]. Suppose we have a second order *conformal* superintegrable system

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{1}{\lambda(x, y)}(p_x^2 + p_y^2) + V(x, y) = 0, \quad \mathcal{H} \equiv \mathcal{H}_0 + V \quad (9)$$

with V the general potential solution for this system, and suppose $U(x, y)$ is a particular potential solution, nonzero in an open set. The *conformal Stäckel transform* induced by U is the system

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = E, \quad \tilde{\mathcal{H}} \equiv \frac{1}{\tilde{\lambda}}(p_x^2 + p_y^2) + \tilde{V} \text{ where } \tilde{\lambda} = \lambda U, \quad \tilde{V} = \frac{V}{U}. \quad (10)$$

In [4, 26] we proved

Theorem 3. *The transformed (Helmholtz) system $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ is superintegrable (in the nonconformal sense).*

This result shows that any second order conformal Laplace superintegrable system admitting a nonconstant potential U can be Stäckel transformed to a Helmholtz superintegrable system. This operation is invertible, but the inverse is not a Stäckel transform. By choosing all possible special potentials U associated with the fixed Laplace system (9) we generate the equivalence

class of all Helmholtz superintegrable systems (10) obtainable through this process. As is easy to check, any two Helmholtz superintegrable systems lie in the same equivalence class if and only if they are Stäckel equivalent in the standard sense, see Theorem 4 in [4]. All Helmholtz superintegrable systems are related to conformal Laplace systems in this way, so the study of all Helmholtz superintegrability on conformally flat manifolds can be reduced to the study of all conformal Laplace superintegrable systems on flat space. All of these results have direct analogs for operator Laplace systems.

The basic structure of quadratic algebras for nondegenerate Helmholtz superintegrable systems is preserved under the transformation to Laplace equations, except that all identities hold mod \mathcal{H} :

Theorem 4. *The symmetries $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2$ of the 2D nondegenerate conformal superintegrable Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} generate a quadratic algebra*

$$\begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{S}_1\} &= f^{(1)}(\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4), \quad [\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{S}_2] = f^{(2)}(\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4), \\ \mathcal{R}^2 &= f^{(3)}(\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4), \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where $\mathcal{R} = \{\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2\}$ and all identities hold mod (\mathcal{H}) . Here the α_j are the parameters in the nondegenerate potential.

A crucial observation now is that the free parts (those parts that one obtains by setting all the a_i to zero) of the generators for 2nd order conformal superintegrable systems lie in the universal enveloping algebra of the conformal Lie algebra, mod \mathcal{H} . Thus for the 2D case it follows that contractions of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ induce contractions of the conformal quadratic algebras of 2nd order superintegrable systems with nondegenerate potentials, and contractions of one system into another. In [4] it is shown how these Laplace contractions then induce contractions of Helmholtz superintegrable systems.

3 Tetraspherical coordinates

As already mentioned, the free parts of the 2nd order conformal symmetries of the Laplace equation $\mathcal{H} \equiv p_x^2 + p_y^2 + V(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ lie in the universal enveloping algebra of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ with generators (8). To linearize the action of these $so(n+2, \mathbb{C})$ operators on Laplace equations in n dimensions, Bôcher introduced a family of projective coordinates on the null cone in $n+2$ dimensions. In our case $n=2$ these are the tetraspherical coordinates (x_1, \dots, x_4) . They satisfy $x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + x_4^2 = 0$, (the null cone) and $\sum_{k=1}^4 x_k \partial_{x_k} = 0$. They are projective coordinates on the null cone and have 2 degrees of freedom. Their principal advantage over flat space Cartesian coordinates is that the action of the conformal algebra (8) and of the conformal group $SO(4, \mathbb{C})$ is linearized in tetraspherical coordinates.

Relation to Cartesian coordinates (x, y) and coordinates on the 2-sphere (s_1, s_2, s_3) :

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 2XT, \quad x_2 = 2YT, \quad x_3 = X^2 + Y^2 - T^2, \quad x_4 = i(X^2 + Y^2 + T^2). \\ x &= \frac{X}{T} = -\frac{x_1}{x_3 + ix_4}, \quad y = \frac{Y}{T} = -\frac{x_2}{x_3 + ix_4}, \quad x = \frac{s_1}{1 + s_3}, \quad y = \frac{s_2}{1 + s_3}, \\ s_1 &= \frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \quad s_2 = \frac{2y}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \quad s_3 = \frac{1 - x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \\ \mathcal{H} &\equiv p_x^2 + p_y^2 + \tilde{V} = (x_3 + ix_4)^2 \left(\sum_{k=1}^4 p_{x_k}^2 + V \right) = (1 + s_3)^2 \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 p_{s_j}^2 + V \right), \end{aligned}$$

$$\tilde{V} = (x_3 + ix_4)^2 V, \quad (1 + s_3) = -i \frac{(x_3 + ix_4)}{x_4}, \quad s_1 = \frac{ix_1}{x_4}, \quad s_2 = \frac{ix_2}{x_4}, \quad s_3 = \frac{-ix_3}{x_4}.$$

Thus the Laplace equation $\mathcal{H} \equiv p_x^2 + p_y^2 + \tilde{V}$ in Cartesian coordinates becomes $\sum_{k=1}^4 p_{x_k}^2 + V = 0$ in tetraspherical coordinates.

Relation to flat space and 2-sphere 1st order conformal constants of the motion: We define

$$L_{jk} = x_j \partial_{x_k} - x_k \partial_{x_j}, \quad 1 \leq j, k \leq 4, \quad j \neq k,$$

where $L_{jk} = -L_{kj}$. The generators for flat space conformal symmetries, (8), are related to these via

$$P_1 = L_{13} + iL_{14}, \quad P_2 = L_{23} + iL_{24}, \quad D = iL_{34}, \quad J = L_{12}, \quad K_j = L_{j3} - iL_{j4}, \quad j = 1, 2. \quad (12)$$

The generators for 2-sphere conformal symmetries are related to the L_{jk} via

$$L_{12} = J_{12} = s_1 p_{s_2} - s_2 p_{s_1}, \quad L_{31} = J_{31}, \quad L_{23} = J_{23}, \quad L_{j4} = -ip_{s_j}, \quad j = 1, 2, 3. \quad (13)$$

Note that in identifying tetraspherical coordinates we can always permute the parameters 1–4. Also, we can apply an arbitrary $SO(4, \mathbb{C})$ transformation to the tetraspherical coordinates, so the above relations between Euclidean and tetraspherical coordinates are far from being unique.

3.1 The 6 Laplace superintegrable systems with nondegenerate potentials

The systems are all of the form $\left(\sum_{j=1}^4 \partial_{x_j}^2 + V(\mathbf{x})\right) \Psi = 0$ in tetraspherical coordinates, or $\left(\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2 + \tilde{V}\right) \Psi = 0$ as a flat space system in Cartesian coordinates. Each Laplace system is an equivalence class of Stäckel equivalent Helmholtz systems. In each case the expression for \mathcal{R}^2 in the conformal symmetry algebra can be put in a normal form which is a polynomial in \mathcal{L}_j, a_k of order ≤ 3 . We show the terms of order ≥ 2 in the \mathcal{L}_j alone. The parameter α is linear in the a_j . The remaining terms are of lower order in the \mathcal{L}_j : *LOT*. The potentials are:

$$V_{[1,1,1,1]} = \frac{a_1}{x_1^2} + \frac{a_2}{x_2^2} + \frac{a_3}{x_3^2} + \frac{a_4}{x_4^2}, \quad \tilde{V}_{[1,1,1,1]} = \frac{a_1}{x^2} + \frac{a_2}{y^2} + \frac{4a_3}{(x^2 + y^2 - 1)^2} - \frac{4a_4}{(x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2}, \quad (14)$$

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 (\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \alpha \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 + LOT.$$

Stäckel equivalent systems: $S9, S8, S7, D4B(b), D4C(b), K[1, 1, 1, 1]$.

$$V_{[2,1,1]} = \frac{a_1}{x_1^2} + \frac{a_2}{x_2^2} + \frac{a_3(x_3 - ix_4)}{(x_3 + ix_4)^3} + \frac{a_4}{(x_3 + ix_4)^2}, \quad \tilde{V}_{[2,1,1]} = \frac{a_1}{x^2} + \frac{a_2}{y^2} - a_3(x^2 + y^2) + a_4, \quad (15)$$

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + \alpha \mathcal{L}_2^2 + LOT.$$

Stäckel equivalent systems: $S4, S2, E1, E16, D4A(b), D3B, D2B, D2C, K[2, 1, 1]$.

$$V_{[2,2]} = \frac{a_1}{(x_1 + ix_2)^2} + \frac{a_2(x_1 - ix_2)}{(x_1 + ix_2)^3} + \frac{a_3}{(x_3 + ix_4)^2} + \frac{a_4(x_3 - ix_4)}{(x_3 + ix_4)^3}, \quad (16)$$

$$\tilde{V}_{[2,2]} = \frac{a_1}{(x + iy)^2} + \frac{a_2(x - iy)}{(x + iy)^3} + a_3 - a_4(x^2 + y^2),$$

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + LOT.$$

Stäckel equivalent systems: $E8, E17, E7, E19, D3C, D3D, K[2, 2]$.

$$V_{[3,1]} = \frac{a_1}{(x_3 + ix_4)^2} + \frac{a_2 x_1}{(x_3 + ix_4)^3} + \frac{a_3(4x_1^2 + x_2^2)}{(x_3 + ix_4)^4} + \frac{a_4}{x_2^2}, \quad (17)$$

$$\tilde{V}_{[3,1]} = a_1 - a_2x + a_3(4x^2 + y^2) + \frac{a_4}{y^2},$$

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3 + \alpha \mathcal{L}_2^2 + LOT.$$

Stäckel equivalent systems: $S1, E2, D1B, D2A, K[3, 1]$.

$$\begin{aligned} V_{[4]} &= \frac{a_1}{(x_3 + ix_4)^2} + a_2 \frac{x_1 + ix_2}{(x_3 + ix_4)^3} + a_3 \frac{3(x_1 + ix_2)^2 - 2(x_3 + ix_4)(x_1 - ix_2)}{(x_3 + ix_4)^4} \\ &+ a_4 \frac{4(x_3 + ix_4)(x_3^2 + x_4^2) + 2(x_1 + ix_2)^3}{(x_3 + ix_4)^5}, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

$$\tilde{V}_{[4]} = a_1 - a_2(x + iy) + a_3(3(x + iy)^2 + 2(x - iy)) - a_4(4(x^2 + y^2) + 2(x + iy)^3),$$

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3 + \alpha \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 + LOT.$$

Stäckel equivalent systems: $E10, E9, D1A, K[4]$.

$$V_{[0]} = \frac{a_1}{(x_3 + ix_4)^2} + \frac{a_2x_1 + a_3x_2}{(x_3 + ix_4)^3} + a_4 \frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2}{(x_3 + ix_4)^4}, \quad \tilde{V}_{[0]} = a_1 - (a_2x + a_3y) + a_4(x^2 + y^2), \quad (19)$$

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \alpha \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 + LOT.$$

Stäckel equivalent systems: $E20, E11, E3', D1C, D3A, K[0]$.

4 Definition and composition of Bôcher contractions

Before introducing precise definitions, let us note that all geometrical contractions of $e(2, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow e(2, \mathbb{C})$ and $so(3, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow so(3, \mathbb{C})$, $e(2, \mathbb{C})$ as classified in [16] induce geometrical contractions of $so(4, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow so(4, \mathbb{C})$. Recall that a basis for $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ is (8) where the subset P_1, P_2, J forms a basis for $e(2, \mathbb{C})$. As an example, consider the coordinate limit $x = \epsilon x', y = \epsilon y'$. This induces the contraction $\epsilon P_1 = P'_1$, $\epsilon P_2 = P'_2$, $J = J'$ of $e(2, \mathbb{C})$ and, further, the contraction $D = D'$, $K_1 = \epsilon K'_1$, $K_2 = \epsilon K'_2$ of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$. The other contractions of $e(2, \mathbb{C})$ work similarly.

For $so(3, \mathbb{C})$ we have the basis J_{23}, J_{31}, J_{12} where

$$s_1^2 + s_2^2 + s_3^2 = 1, \quad s_1 p_{s_1} + s_2 p_{s_2} + s_3 p_{s_3} = 0.$$

The generators for the conformal symmetry algebra of the $so(3, \mathbb{C})$ Laplace equation are related to the L_{jk} basis for $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ via (13). Now consider the example limit $s_1 = \epsilon x'$, $s_2 = \epsilon y'$. It induces the contraction

$$\epsilon J_{23} = -p_{y'}, \quad \epsilon J_{31} = p_{x'}, \quad J_{12} = x' p_{y'} - y' p_{x'}$$

of $so(3, \mathbb{C})$ to $e(2, \mathbb{C})$ and the contraction

$$\begin{aligned} L_{12} &= x' p_{y'} - y' p_{x'} = J', \quad i\epsilon L_{14} = p_{x'} = P'_1, \quad i\epsilon L_{24} = p_{y'} = P'_2 \\ -\frac{2}{\epsilon}(iL_{14} + L_{13}) &= (x'^2 - y'^2)p_{x'} + 2x'y'p_{y'} + O(\epsilon) = K'_1 + O(\epsilon), \\ -\frac{2}{\epsilon}(iL_{24} + L_{23}) &= (y'^2 - x'^2)p_{y'} + 2x'y'p_{x'} + O(\epsilon) = K'_2 + O(\epsilon), \end{aligned}$$

of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ to itself. The other contractions of $so(3, \mathbb{C})$ work similarly.

We now present a general definition of Bôcher contractions of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ to itself and demonstrate that the above induced contractions can be reformulated as Bôcher contractions. Let $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}(\epsilon)\mathbf{y}$, and $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_4)$, $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_4)$ be column vectors, and $\mathbf{A} = (A_{jk}(\epsilon))$, be a 4×4 matrix with matrix elements

$$A_{kj}(\epsilon) = \sum_{\ell=-N}^N a_{kj}^{\ell} \epsilon^{\ell} \quad (20)$$

where N is a nonnegative integer and the a_{kj}^ℓ are complex constants. We say that the matrix \mathbf{A} defines a *Böcher contraction* of the conformal algebra $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ to itself provided

$$1) : \quad \det(\mathbf{A}) = \pm 1, \text{ constant for all } \epsilon \neq 0, \quad (21)$$

$$2) : \quad \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x} \equiv \sum_{j=1}^4 x_j(\epsilon)^2 = \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{y} + O(\epsilon). \quad (22)$$

If, in addition, $\mathbf{A} \in O(4, \mathbb{C})$ for all $\epsilon \neq 0$ the matrix \mathbf{A} defines a *special Böcher contraction*. For a special Böcher contraction $\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{y}$, with no error term.

We explain why this is a contraction in the generalized Inönü-Wigner sense. Let $L_{ts} = x_t \partial_{x_s} - x_s \partial_{x_t}$, $s \neq t$ be a generator of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\epsilon) = \mathbf{A}^{-1}(\epsilon)$ be the matrix inverse. (Note that $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ also has an expansion of the form (20) in ϵ .) We have the expansion

$$L_{ts} = \sum_{k, \ell} (A_{tk} \tilde{A}_{\ell s} - A_{sk} \tilde{A}_{\ell t}) y_k \partial_{y_\ell} = \epsilon^{\alpha_{ts}} \left(\sum_{k, \ell} F_{k\ell} y_k \partial_{y_\ell} + O(\epsilon) \right), \quad (23)$$

where \mathbf{F} is a constant nonzero matrix. Thus the integer α_{ts} is the smallest power of ϵ occurring in the expansion of L_{ts} . Now consider the product $L_{ts}(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x})$. On one hand it is obvious that $L_{ts}(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \equiv 0$, but on the other hand the expansions (22), (23) yield

$$L_{ts}(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}) = \epsilon^{\alpha_{ts}} \left(\sum_{k, \ell} F_{k\ell} y_k \partial_{y_\ell} \right) \left(\sum_j y_j^2 \right) + O(\epsilon^{\alpha_{ts}}).$$

Thus, $(\sum_{k, \ell} F_{k\ell} y_k \partial_{y_\ell}) (\sum_j y_j^2) \equiv 0$ for \mathbf{F} a constant nonzero matrix. However, the only differential operators of the form $\sum_{k, \ell} F_{k\ell} y_k \partial_{y_\ell}$ that map $\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{y}$ to zero are elements of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$:

$$\sum_{k, \ell} F_{k\ell} y_k \partial_{y_\ell} = \sum_{j > k} b_{jk} L'_{jk}, \quad L'_{jk} = y_j \partial_{y_k} - y_k \partial_{y_j}.$$

Thus

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon^{-\alpha_{ts}} L_{ts} = \sum_{j > k} b_{jk} L'_{jk} \equiv L' \quad (24)$$

and this determines a limit of L_{ts} to L' . Similarly, if we apply this same procedure to the operator $L = \sum_{t > s} c(\epsilon)_{ts} L_{ts}$ for any rational polynomials $c_{ts}(\epsilon)$ we will obtain an operator $L' = \sum_{j > k} b_{jk} L'_{jk}$ in the limit. Further, due to condition (21), by choosing the $c(\epsilon)_{ts}$ appropriately we can obtain any $L' \in so(4, \mathbb{C})$ in the limit. (Indeed, modulo rational functions of ϵ , this is just the adjoint action of $O(4, \mathbb{C})$ on $so(4, \mathbb{C})$. In this sense the mapping $L \rightarrow L'$ is onto.)

Theorem 5. Suppose the matrix $\mathbf{A}(\epsilon)$ defines a Böcher contraction of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$. Let $\{L_{t_i s_i}, i = 1, \dots, 6\}$ be an ordered basis for $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ such that $\alpha_{t_1 s_1} \leq \alpha_{t_2 s_2} \leq \dots \leq \alpha_{t_6 s_6}$. Then there is an ordered basis $\{L_j, j = 1, \dots, 6\}$ for $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ such that

1. $L_j \in \text{span}\{L_{t_i s_i}, i = 1, \dots, j\}$
2. There are integers $\alpha_1 \leq \alpha_2 \leq \dots \leq \alpha_6$ such that

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{L_j}{\epsilon^{\alpha_j}} = L'_j, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 6,$$

and $\{L'_j, j = 1, \dots, 6\}$ forms a basis for $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ in the y_k variables.

Proof: The proof is by induction on j . For $j = 1$ the result follows from (24). Assume the assertion is true for $j \leq j_0 < 6$. Then, due to the nonsingularity condition (21), we can always find polynomials in ϵ , $\{a_1(\epsilon), a_2(\epsilon), \dots, a_{j_0}(\epsilon)\}$ such that

$$L_{j_0+1} = L_{t_{j_0+1}, s_{j_0+1}} - \sum_{i=1}^{j_0} a_i L_i = \epsilon^{\alpha_{j_0+1}} L'_{j_0+1} + O(\epsilon^{\alpha_{j_0+2}}),$$

where L'_{j_0+1} is linearly independent of $\{L'_i, 1 \leq i \leq j_0\}$ and $\alpha_{j_0+1} \geq \alpha_{j_0}$. \square

In [4] we have used this construction to compute explicitly the bases for the basic Böcher contractions.

4.1 Composition of Bôcher contractions

Let \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} define Bôcher contractions of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ to itself. Thus there exist expansions

$$\mathbf{x}(\epsilon_1) \cdot \mathbf{x}(\epsilon_1) = \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{y} + O(\epsilon_1^a), \quad \mathbf{y}(\epsilon_2) \cdot \mathbf{y}(\epsilon_2) = \mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{z} + O(\epsilon_2^b),$$

where

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}(\epsilon_1)\mathbf{y}, \quad \mathbf{y}(\epsilon_2) = \mathbf{B}(\epsilon_2)\mathbf{z}.$$

Now let

$$\mathbf{x}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = \mathbf{A}(\epsilon_1)\mathbf{y}(\epsilon_2) = \mathbf{A}(\epsilon_1)\mathbf{B}(\epsilon_2)\mathbf{z}.$$

Then

$$\mathbf{x}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \cdot \mathbf{x}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = \mathbf{y}(\epsilon_2) \cdot \mathbf{y}(\epsilon_2) + O_{\epsilon_2}(\epsilon_1^a) = \mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{z} + O(\epsilon_2^b) + \epsilon_1^a f(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \mathbf{y}).$$

Now set $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon^m, \epsilon_2 = \epsilon$. It follows from these expansions that we can always find an $m > 0$ such that

$$\mathbf{x}(\epsilon^m, \epsilon) \cdot \mathbf{x}(\epsilon^m, \epsilon) = \mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{z} + O(\epsilon^q) \quad (25)$$

and

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon^{-\alpha_{ts}} L_{ts} = \sum_{j>k} c_{jk} L''_{jk} \equiv L''$$

for some $q > 0$, with L'' in the $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ Lie algebra of operators such that $L''(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{z}) = 0$. Thus this composition of the A and B contractions yields a new Bôcher contraction. For special Bôcher contractions the composition is defined without restriction and the resulting contraction is uniquely determined for ϵ_1, ϵ_2 going to 0 independently. However, if we set $\epsilon_2 = \epsilon_1^m$, in general the resulting contraction will depend on m .

4.2 Special Bôcher contractions

Special Bôcher contractions are much easier to understand and manipulate than general Bôcher contractions: composition is merely matrix multiplication. The contractions that arise from the Bôcher recipe are not “special”. However, we shall show that we can associate a special Bôcher contraction with each contraction obtained from Bôcher’s recipe, such that the special contraction contains the same basic geometrical information. The (projective) tetraspherical coordinates are associated with points (x, y) in 2D flat space via the relation

$$(x, y) \equiv (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \quad (26)$$

$$= [x_3 + ix_4] \left(-x, -y, \frac{1}{2}(1 - x^2 - y^2), -\frac{i}{2}(1 + x^2 + y^2) \right).$$

In particular,

$$x = -\frac{x_1}{x_3 + ix_4}, \quad y = -\frac{x_2}{x_3 + ix_4}, \quad \frac{x_3 + ix_4}{x_3 - ix_4} = \frac{-1}{x^2 + y^2}. \quad (27)$$

For coordinates on the 2-sphere we have

$$(s_1, s_2, s_3) \equiv (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_4 (-is_1, -is_2, is_3, 1). \quad (28)$$

The action of Bôcher contractions on the flat space coordinates (x, y) is an affine mapping and this affine action carries all of the geometrical information about the contraction. For example, the $[1, 1, 1, 1] \downarrow [2, 1, 1]$ contraction

$$x_3 = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon} x'_3 - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon} x'_4, \quad x_4 = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon} - \epsilon \right) x'_3 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon} + \epsilon \right) x'_4,$$

and $x_1 = x'_1$, $x_2 = x'_2$, gives

$$x = -\frac{x_1}{x_3 + ix_4} = \frac{\epsilon x'_1}{\sqrt{2}(x'_3 + ix'_4)} + O(\epsilon^2) = \epsilon' x' + O(\epsilon'^2), \quad y = \epsilon' y' + O(\epsilon'^2),$$

for $\epsilon' = \epsilon/\sqrt{2}$. Thus the geometric content of the action of this contraction in flat space is $x = \epsilon' x'$, $y = \epsilon' y'$. The terms of order ϵ'^2 disappear in the limit. On the complex sphere we have

$$s_1 = \frac{ix_1}{x_4} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}i \epsilon x'_1}{x'_3 + ix'_4} + O(\epsilon^2) = \epsilon' x' + O(\epsilon'^2), \quad s_2 = \epsilon' y' + O(\epsilon'^2),$$

$$s_3 = -\frac{ix_3}{x_4} = 1 + O(\epsilon^2),$$

where $\epsilon' = \sqrt{2} \epsilon$ and x', y' are flat space coordinates. Thus the geometric content of the action of this contraction on the 2-sphere is $s_1 = \epsilon' x'$, $s_2 = \epsilon' y'$. Note that distinct contractions on flat space and the sphere are induced by the same Bôcher contraction.

Using the fact that the contraction limits are completely determined by the geometric limits, we can derive special Bôcher contractions that produce the same geometric limits. We again consider the example discussed above. We will design a special Bôcher contraction with the property $x = \epsilon x'$, $y = \epsilon y'$ such that equations (26,27) hold. In this case we require $x = x_1/(x_3 + ix_4) = \epsilon x' = \epsilon x'_1/(x'_3 + ix'_4)$, $y = x_2/(x_3 + ix_4) = x'_2/(x'_3 + ix'_4)$. The solution is, essentially unique up to conformal transformation:

$$x_1 = x'_1, \quad x_3 = x'_3(\epsilon + 1/\epsilon)/2 + ix'_4(-\epsilon + 1/\epsilon)/2,$$

$$x_2 = x'_2, \quad x_4 = ix'_3(\epsilon - 1/\epsilon)/2 + x'_4(\epsilon + 1/\epsilon)/2.$$

This contraction satisfies $x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + x_4^2 = x_1'^2 + x_2'^2 + x_3'^2 + x_4'^2$ and agrees with $[1, 1, 1, 1] \downarrow [2, 1, 1]$ on Laplace equations.

Similarly we can use each of the geometric contractions of flat space and the 2-sphere as classified in [16], to construct special Bôcher contractions that take $V_{[1,1,1,1]}$ to each of $V_{[2,1,1]}$, $V_{[2,2]}$, $V_{[3,1]}$, $V_{[4]}$. For example

$$V_{[1,1,1,1]} \rightarrow V_{[3,1]} : \quad x_1 = x'_1 + \frac{x'_3}{\epsilon} + \frac{ix'_4}{\epsilon}, \quad x_3 = -\frac{x'_1}{\epsilon} + x'_3(1 - \frac{1}{2\epsilon^2}) - \frac{ix'_4}{2\epsilon^2}, \quad (29)$$

$$x_2 = x'_2, \quad x_4 = -\frac{ix'_1}{\epsilon} - \frac{ix'_3}{2\epsilon^2} + x'_4(1 + \frac{1}{2\epsilon^2}).$$

A more general way to construct special Bôcher contractions is to make use of the normal forms for conjugacy classes of $so(4, \mathbb{C})$ under the adjoint action of $SO(4, \mathbb{C})$. They are derived in [27]:

$$C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad C_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \mu \\ 0 & 0 & -\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (30)$$

$$C_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1+i & 0 & 0 \\ -1-i & 0 & -1+i & 0 \\ 0 & 1-i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad C_4 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & i & 2\lambda \\ -1 & 0 & 2\lambda & i \\ -i & -2\lambda & 0 & -1 \\ -2\lambda & -i & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (31)$$

Every 1-parameter subgroup $\mathbf{A}(t)$ of $SO(4, \mathbb{C})$ (i.e., $\mathbf{A}(t_1 + t_2) = \mathbf{A}(t_1)\mathbf{A}(t_2)$), is conjugate to one of the forms $\mathbf{A}_j(t) = \exp(tC_j)$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$. By making an appropriate change of coordinate $t = t(\epsilon)$ we can obtain a special Bôcher contraction matrix.

$$\mathbf{A}_1(t) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\epsilon^2+1}{\epsilon} & -\frac{i(\epsilon^2-1)}{\epsilon} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{i(\epsilon^2-1)}{\epsilon} & \frac{\epsilon^2+1}{\epsilon} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \epsilon = e^{i\lambda t}, \quad (32)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_2(t) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\epsilon_1^2+1}{\epsilon_1} & -\frac{i(\epsilon_1^2-1)}{\epsilon_1} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{i(\epsilon_1^2-1)}{\epsilon_1} & \frac{\epsilon_1^2+1}{\epsilon_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\epsilon_2^2+1}{\epsilon_2} & -\frac{i(\epsilon_2^2-1)}{\epsilon_2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{i(\epsilon_2^2-1)}{\epsilon_2} & \frac{\epsilon_2^2+1}{\epsilon_2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \epsilon_1 = e^{i\lambda t}, \epsilon_2 = e^{i\mu t} \quad (33)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_3(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \frac{1}{2\epsilon^2} & \frac{1}{\epsilon} & \frac{i}{2\epsilon^2} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2\epsilon^2} & \frac{1}{\epsilon} & \frac{i}{2\epsilon^2} & 0 \\ \frac{i}{2\epsilon^2} & -\frac{i}{\epsilon} & 1 + \frac{1}{2\epsilon^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \epsilon = \frac{2}{t(1+i)}, \quad (34)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_4(t) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\epsilon_1^2+1}{\epsilon_1} & \frac{1}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & \frac{i}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & \frac{i(\epsilon_1^2-1)}{\epsilon_1} \\ -\frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2} & \frac{\epsilon_1^2+1}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & \frac{i(\epsilon_1^2-1)}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & \frac{i\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2} \\ -\frac{i\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2} & \frac{i(\epsilon_1^2-1)}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & \frac{\epsilon_1^2+1}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & -\frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2} \\ \frac{i(\epsilon_1^2-1)}{\epsilon_1} & \frac{i}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & \frac{1}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} & \frac{\epsilon_1^2+1}{\epsilon_1} \end{pmatrix}. \quad \epsilon_1 = e^{i\lambda t}, \epsilon_2 = \frac{1}{t}. \quad (35)$$

The contraction (32) takes $V_{[1,1,1,1]}$ to $V_{[2,1]}$, (33) takes it to $V_{[2,2]}$, and (34) takes it to $V_{[3,1]}$. The contractions (35), on the other hand, takes $V_{[1,1,1,1]}$ to $V_{[2,2]}$ again. Consider though the special case $\mathbf{H}(\epsilon)$, of (35) where $\epsilon_1 = 1$, $\epsilon_2 = \epsilon$. It, too, maps $V_{[1,1,1,1]}$ to $V_{[2,2]}$, but the composition $\mathbf{H}(\epsilon)\mathbf{H}(\epsilon^2)$ takes $V_{[1,1,1,1]}$ to $V_{[4]}$. (We note that the composition $\mathbf{H}(\epsilon)\mathbf{H}(\epsilon^3)$ takes $V_{[1,1,1,1]}$ to $V_{[3,1]}$, showing that, in general, the result of a composition $\mathbf{A}(\epsilon_1)\mathbf{B}(\epsilon_2)$ depends on the relationship between ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 .)

If the matrix $\mathbf{A}(\epsilon)$ defines a general Bôcher contraction, by transposing two rows if necessary, we can assume $\det \mathbf{A}(\epsilon) = 1$ for all $\epsilon \neq 0$. Thus, $\mathbf{A}(\epsilon)$ is a curve on $SL(4, \mathbb{C})$. We could use the results of [27] to list all the conjugacy classes of $sl(4, \mathbb{C})$ to attempt a classification. However, it would be necessary to check condition (22) in every case, whereas for special Bôcher contractions this condition is satisfied automatically.

5 Classification of free abstract nondegenerate quadratic algebras. Identification of those from free nondegenerate 2nd order superintegrable systems

5.1 Free nondegenerate classical quadratic algebras

Recall from Definition (1) that the symmetry algebra of a free 2D superintegrable system on a constant curvature space, \mathcal{A} , is a quadratic algebra which is completely determined by the function \mathcal{F} . More specifically, it is a Poisson algebra generated by three linearly independent elements $\{\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{H}\}$ where \mathcal{H} generates the center of \mathcal{A} and the structure equations of the algebra are given by (4) with

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2) \quad (36)$$

for some third order homogeneous polynomial \mathcal{F} . We call \mathcal{R}^2 , which is the same as $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2)$, the Casimir of \mathcal{A} in terms of $\{\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{H}\}$. Motivated by the superintegrable case we define an *abstract free nondegenerate 2D classical quadratic algebra* as follows.

Definition 2. A free nondegenerate 2D classical quadratic algebra is a Poisson algebra \mathcal{A} over \mathbb{C} that is generated by $\{\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{H}\}$ where \mathcal{H} generates the center of \mathcal{A} ,

$$\{\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{L}_1\} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{R}^2}{\partial \mathcal{L}_2} \quad \{\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{L}_2\} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{R}^2}{\partial \mathcal{L}_1}, \quad (37)$$

$\mathcal{R} = \{\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2\}$, and $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2)$ for some third order homogeneous polynomial \mathcal{F} .

Below we shall refer to free nondegenerate 2D classical quadratic algebras simply as (abstract) quadratic algebras.

Remark 1. As an associative algebra \mathcal{A} is the quotient of the free \mathbb{C} -algebra generated by $\{\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{R}\}$ and its two sided ideal generated by $\mathcal{R}^2 - \mathcal{F}$. For any choice of a polynomial of degree three for \mathcal{F} , the above equations define Lie brackets on \mathcal{A} that make it a Poisson algebra, but higher order polynomials will not define Lie brackets on \mathcal{A} .

For any other generating set $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2, \tilde{\mathcal{H}}, \tilde{\mathcal{R}}$ of the same Poisson algebra that satisfies:

- (i) The linear span over \mathbb{C} of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2, \tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ coincides with the linear span of $\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{H}$.
- (ii) $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ is in the center of the Poisson algebra, i.e., Poisson commutes with everything.
- (iii) $\tilde{\mathcal{R}} = \{\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2\}$.
- (iv) The generators $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2, \tilde{\mathcal{H}}, \tilde{\mathcal{R}}$ satisfy the structure equations i.e.,

$$\{\tilde{\mathcal{R}}, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1\} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{R}}^2}{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2} \quad \{\tilde{\mathcal{R}}, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2\} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{R}}^2}{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1}. \quad (38)$$

It easy to see that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1 \\ \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2 \\ \tilde{\mathcal{H}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} & A_{1,3} \\ A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & A_{2,3} \\ 0 & 0 & A_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}_1 \\ \mathcal{L}_2 \\ \mathcal{H} \end{pmatrix} \quad (39)$$

for some

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} & A_{1,3} \\ A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & A_{2,3} \\ 0 & 0 & A_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \in GL(3, \mathbb{C}). \quad (40)$$

For a matrix as above we define $A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} \\ A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} \in GL(2, \mathbb{C})$. We denote the group of matrices of the form (40) by G , it is a complex algebraic group. Moreover, if $\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{F}$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}^2 = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}$ then there is $A \in G$, such that

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}(\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2, \tilde{\mathcal{H}}) = \det(A_2)^2 \mathcal{F}(A^{-1}(\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2, \tilde{\mathcal{H}})) \quad (41)$$

Obviously, two quadratic algebras are isomorphic if and only if their Casimirs are related by $A \in G$ via equation 41. This fact is fundamental for the classification of quadratic algebras.

Let $\mathbb{C}^{[3]}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ be the complex algebraic variety of homogeneous polynomials of degree three in the variables x_1, x_2, x_3 . The group G acts on $\mathbb{C}^{[3]}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ via equation (41). Obviously there is a bijection between isomorphism classes of quadratic algebras and orbits of G in $\mathbb{C}^{[3]}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$. We will determine all isomorphism classes of quadratic algebras by classifying all orbits of G in $\mathbb{C}^{[3]}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$. We shall distinguish an element in each orbit that defines the Canonical form for the Casimir of a given quadratic algebra. Moreover we present an algorithm for finding the canonical form of the Casimir for a given quadratic algebra which gives a practical way to determine if two given quadratic algebras are isomorphic.

5.2 The algorithm for casting the Casimir to its the canonical form

In this section we introduce the notation $X_1 = \mathcal{L}_1$, $X_2 = \mathcal{L}_2$, $X_3 = \mathcal{H}$ and similarly, $\tilde{X}_1 = \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1$, $\tilde{X}_2 = \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2$, $\tilde{X}_3 = \tilde{\mathcal{H}}$. For any realization of the Casimir, $R^2 = \mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3)$, there are homogeneous polynomials in X_1, X_2 of order j , $\mathcal{F}^{(j)}$, such that

$$\mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3) = \mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + X_3 \mathcal{F}^{(2)}(X_1, X_2) + X_3^2 \mathcal{F}^{(1)}(X_1, X_2) + X_3^3 \mathcal{F}^{(0)}$$

For any $f \in \mathbb{C}^{[3]}[X_1, X_2, X_3]$ we shall denote the stabilizer of f in G by $\text{Stab}_G\{f\}$. We shall use the notation $\text{Stab}_G\{f + O(\mathcal{H})\}$ for the subgroup of G consisting of all elements that do not change the part in f that is \mathcal{H} independent. That is $g \in \text{Stab}_G\{f + O(\mathcal{H})\}$ preserves the lowest order term in f as a polynomial of $\mathcal{H} = X_3$. Similarly $\text{Stab}_G\{f + O(\mathcal{H}^2)\}$ stands for the subgroup of G consisting of all elements that preserves the part in f that is a polynomial of degree 1 in \mathcal{H} . Similarly we define

$\text{Stab}_G\{f + O(\mathcal{H}^3)\}$. For a given $f \in \mathbb{C}^{[3]}[X_1, X_2, X_3]$ we shall denote by $f^{(i)}(X_1, X_2)$ its homogeneous component that are uniquely defined by

$$f(X_1, X_2, X_3) = f^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + X_3 f^{(2)}(X_1, X_2) + X_3^2 f^{(1)}(X_1, X_2) + X_3^3 f^{(0)}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Stab}_G\{f^{(3)} + O(\mathcal{H})\} &\supseteq \text{Stab}_G\{f^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}f^{(2)} + O(\mathcal{H}^2)\} \supseteq \\ &\text{Stab}_G\{f^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}f^{(2)} + \mathcal{H}^2 f^{(1)} + O(\mathcal{H}^3)\} \supseteq \text{Stab}_G\{f\} \end{aligned}$$

The algorithm for casting $R^2 = \mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ into its canonical form is as follows:

step1 Using a certain $g_1 \in G$ we transform $\mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ to a form in which $\mathcal{F}^{(3)}$ is in a canonical form, $\mathcal{F}_c^{(3)}$.

step2 Using a certain $g_2 \in \text{Stab}_G\{\mathcal{F}_c^{(3)} + O(\mathcal{H})\}$ we transform $\mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ (that we got in step 1) to a form in which $\mathcal{F}^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}$ is in a canonical form $\mathcal{F}_c^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}_c^{(2)}$.

step3 Using a certain $g_3 \in \text{Stab}_G\{\mathcal{F}_c^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}_c^{(2)} + O(\mathcal{H}^2)\}$ we transform $\mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ (that we got in step 2) to a form in which $\mathcal{F}^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)} + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}^{(1)}$ is in a canonical form $\mathcal{F}_c^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}_c^{(2)} + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}_c^{(1)}$.

step4 Using a certain $g_4 \in \text{Stab}_G\{\mathcal{F}_c^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}_c^{(2)} + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}_c^{(1)} + O(\mathcal{H}^3)\}$ we transform $\mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ (that we got in step 3) to a form in which $\mathcal{F}^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)} + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}^{(1)} + \mathcal{H}^3\mathcal{F}^{(0)}$ is in a canonical form $\mathcal{F}_c^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}_c^{(2)} + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}_c^{(1)} + \mathcal{H}^3\mathcal{F}_c^{(0)}$. This is the canonical form of \mathcal{F} .

We shall discuss step 1 and give parts of the calculations and examples for applying this algorithm. At the end of the section we list all possible canonical form of quadratic algebras in a table.

5.2.1 Step 1

Note that for two presentations of the Casimir of a given quadratic algebra: $R^2 = \mathcal{F}(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}^2 = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2, \tilde{X})$ that are related by equation (39) with $A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} & 0 \\ A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in GL(3, \mathbb{C})$ and

$$\tilde{\mathcal{R}}^2 = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{(3)}(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2) + \tilde{X}_3 \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{(2)}(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2) + \tilde{X}_3^2 \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{(1)}(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2) + \tilde{X}_3^3 \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{(0)} \quad (42)$$

we have

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{(i)}(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2) = \det(A_2)^2 \mathcal{F}^{(i)}(A_2^{-1}(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2)) \quad (43)$$

From this we can deduce the following lemma.

Lemma 1. *Given $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbb{C}^{[3]}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ we can find an explicit matrix $A \in G$ such that for*

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}(\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2, \tilde{\mathcal{H}}) = \det(A_2)^2 \mathcal{F}(A^{-1}(\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_1, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_2, \tilde{\mathcal{H}})) \quad (44)$$

we have $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^{(3)}(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2) = C_I(X_1, X_2)$, where C_I equal to exactly one of the following

$$0, \quad C_1(X_1, X_2) = X_1 X_2 (X_1 + X_2), \quad C_2(X_1, X_2) = X_1^2 X_2, \quad C_3(X_1, X_2) = X_1^3. \quad (45)$$

Proposition 1.

$$\text{Stab}_G(C_1 + O(\mathcal{H})) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & v \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \mid A \in \Omega(C_1), v \in \mathbb{C}^2, c \in \mathbb{C}^* \right\} \quad (46)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(C_1) &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \\ \text{II} &\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \\ \text{Stab}_G(C_2 + O(\mathcal{H})) &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & v_1 \\ 0 & 1 & v_2 \\ 0 & 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \mid v_1, v_2 \in \mathbb{C}, a, c \in \mathbb{C}^* \right\} \\ \text{Stab}_G(C_3 + O(\mathcal{H})) &= \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} d^2 & 0 & v_1 \\ b & d & v_2 \\ 0 & 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \mid b, v_1, v_2 \in \mathbb{C}, c, d \in \mathbb{C}^* \right\} \end{aligned}$$

5.3 First case- Three distinct roots

Suppose that

$$\mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}(X_1, X_3) = C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}(c_5X_1^2 + c_6X_2^2 + c_7X_1X_2) \quad (47)$$

Acting with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -c_6 \\ 0 & 1 & -c_5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \in \text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2)) \quad (48)$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned} C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}(c_5X_1^2 + c_6X_2^2 + c_7X_1X_2) &\mapsto \\ C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}(c'_7X_1X_2) + \mathcal{H}^2(c'_8X_1 + c'_9X_2) + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3 \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

for some $c'_7, c'_8, c'_9, c'_{10}$, hence we can assume that the

$$\mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}(X_1, X_3) = C_1(X_1, X_2) + c_7\mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + O(\mathcal{H}^2) \quad (50)$$

using a matrix of the form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & r \end{pmatrix} \quad (51)$$

we can further assume that $c_7 \in \{0, 1\}$. For the case of $c_7 = 0$ we obtain the following proposition:

Proposition 2. *The stabilizer of the form*

$$\mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}(X_1, X_3) + O(\mathcal{H}^2) = C_1(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2) \quad (52)$$

is given by

$$\text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & 0_2 \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \mid A \in \Omega(C_1), 0_2 = 0 \in \mathbb{C}^2, c \in \mathbb{C}^* \right\} \quad (53)$$

Proof. It is easy to see that

$$\text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2)) \supseteq \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & 0_2 \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \mid A \in \Omega(C_1), 0_2 = 0 \in \mathbb{C}^2, c \in \mathbb{C}^* \right\} \quad (54)$$

For inclusion in the other direction, let $M \in \text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2))$ then obviously M_2 has to preserve $C_1(X_1, X_2)$ i.e., $M_2 \in \Omega(C_1)$. Hence the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} (M^{-1})_{1,1} & (M^{-1})_{1,2} & 0 \\ (M^{-1})_{2,1} & (M^{-1})_{2,2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & M_{1,3} \\ 0 & 1 & M_{2,3} \\ 0 & 0 & M_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \quad (55)$$

as a product of two matrices in the stabilizer $\text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2))$ is also in the stabilizer. The result of the action of this matrix on $C_1(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2)$ forces $M_{1,3} = M_{2,3} = 0$. ■

For the case of $c_7 = 1$ we obtain the following proposition:

Proposition 3. *The stabilizer of the form*

$$\mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2) = C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + O(\mathcal{H}^2) \quad (56)$$

is given by

$$\text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + O(\mathcal{H}^2)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad (57)$$

Proof. Following the same reasoning as in the previous proof we easily see that for $M \in \text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + O(\mathcal{H}^2))$ we must have $M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and then by direct calculation the rest of the proof follows. ■

5.3.1 $\mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) = C_1(X_1, X_2)$ and $c_7 = 0$

Suppose that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}^2 = & \mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}^{(1)}(X_1, X_2) + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3 = \\ & C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}^2(c_8X_1 + c_9X_2) + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3 \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

Acting with $A = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & 0 \\ \gamma & \delta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \in \text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + O(\mathcal{H}^2))$ on \mathcal{R}^2 we will have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}^2 = & C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}^2(c_8X_1 + c_9X_2) + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3 \mapsto \\ & C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}^2(c'_8X_1 + c'_9X_2) + c'_{10}\mathcal{H}^3 \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

where $c'_8 = c^2(\alpha c_8 + \gamma c_9)$, $c'_9 = c^2(\beta c_8 + \delta c_9)$, $c'_{10} = c^3 c_{10}$, and $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \in \Omega(C_1)$. Note that the size of the group $\Omega(C_1)$ is 6.

We now describe an algorithm for choosing a canonical form in this case. If $c_{10} \neq 0$ then acting with $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (c_{10})^{\frac{1}{3}} \end{pmatrix}$ we obtain $c'_{10} = 1$. Writing $\begin{pmatrix} c'_8 \\ c'_9 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} r e^{i\theta} \\ \rho e^{i\phi} \end{pmatrix}$ with $r, \rho \geq 0$ and $\theta, \phi \in [0, 2\pi)$ we choose as our canonical form the expression for c_8 and c_9 according to the following rules (Note that the order is important) first make r is maximal, then θ minimal, then ρ minimal, and finally ϕ minimal. If

$c_{10} = 0$ then again we act with $A = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & 0 \\ \gamma & \delta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$ with $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \in \Omega(C_1)$ and choose c_8 and c_9 as

above and then we can act with a matrix of the form $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c \end{pmatrix}$ to normalize c_8 to zero or one.

5.3.2 $\mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) = C_1(X_1, X_2)$ and $c_7 = 1$

Suppose that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}^2 = & \mathcal{F}^{(3)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}^{(1)}(X_1, X_2) + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3 = \\ & C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + \mathcal{H}^2(c_8X_1 + c_9X_2) + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3 \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

Since

$$\text{Stab}_G(C_1(X_1, X_2) + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + O(\mathcal{H}^2)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \quad (61)$$

then for any $c_8, c_9, c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$ equation (60) defines a canonical form.

Remark 2. For each value of the parameter in the first two lines of the Table 1 if

$$c'_8 = c^2(\alpha c_8 + \gamma c_9), \quad c'_9 = c^2(\beta c_8 + \delta c_9), \quad c'_{10} = c^3 c_{10}, \quad (62)$$

for $c \in \mathbb{C}^*$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \in \Omega(C_1) = & \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \\ \amalg & \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

then the system with parameters c_8, c_9, c_{10} isomorphic to the one with c'_8, c'_9, c'_{10} .

Table 1. List of canonical forms of \mathcal{R}^2 for the nondegenerate free quadratic algebras.

	Canonical forms of \mathcal{R}^2 for the nondegenerate free quadratic algebras	Domain of Parameters
1a	$X_1X_2(X_1 + X_2) + c_8X_1\mathcal{H}^2 + c_9X_2\mathcal{H}^2 + \mathcal{H}^3$	$c_8, c_9 \in \mathbb{C}$, see remark below
1b	$X_1X_2(X_1 + X_2) + X_1\mathcal{H}^2 + c_9X_2\mathcal{H}^2$	$c_9 \in \mathbb{C}$, see remark below
1c	$X_1X_2(X_1 + X_2)$	
1d	$X_1X_2(X_1 + X_2) + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + c_8X_1\mathcal{H}^2 + c_9X_2\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_8, c_9, c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
2a	$X_1^2X_2 + X_1\mathcal{H}^2 + X_2\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
2b	$X_1^2X_2 + c_9X_2\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_9, c_{10} \in \{0, 1\}$
2c	$X_1^2X_2 + \mathcal{H}X_2^2 + X_1\mathcal{H}^2 + c_9X_2\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_9, c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
2d	$X_1^2X_2 + \mathcal{H}X_2^2 + X_2\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
2e	$X_1^2X_2 + \mathcal{H}X_2^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \{0, 1\}$
3a	$X_1^3 + X_1\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
3b	$X_1^3 + \mathcal{H}^3$	
3c	$X_1^3 + X_2\mathcal{H}^2$	
3d	$X_1^3 + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \{0, 1\}$
3e	$X_1^3 + \mathcal{H}X_2^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \{0, 1\}$
3f	$X_1^3 + \mathcal{H}X_2^2 + X_1\mathcal{H}^2 + re^{i\theta}\mathcal{H}^3$	$r \geq 0, \theta \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2})$
3g	$X_1^3 + \mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + \mathcal{H}X_2^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
4a	$\mathcal{H}X_1^2 + \mathcal{H}^2X_2$	
4b	$\mathcal{H}X_1^2 + \mathcal{H}^2X_1 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
4c	$\mathcal{H}X_1^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \{0, 1\}$
4d	$\mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + \mathcal{H}^2(X_1 + X_2) + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$
4e	$\mathcal{H}X_1X_2 + c_8\mathcal{H}^2X_1 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_8, c_{10} \in \{0, 1\}$
4f	\mathcal{H}^2X_1	
4g	$c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$	$c_{10} \in \{0, 1\}$

5.4 Comparison of geometric and abstract nondegenerate quadratic algebras

There is a close relationship between the canonical forms of abstract quadratic algebras and Stäckel equivalence classes of nondegenerate superintegrable systems. To demonstrate this we treat one example in detail. The superintegrable system S9, with nondegenerate potential, can be defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{R}^2 = & \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H} - a_2\mathcal{H}^2 - 2a_2\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H} - 2a_2\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H} - (a_3 + a_2)\mathcal{L}_1^2 - (a_3 + 3a_2 + a_1)\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2 \\
& - (a_2 + a_1)\mathcal{L}_2^2 + (2a_2a_3 + 2a_2^2 + 2a_1a_2)\mathcal{H} + 2(a_2^2 + a_2a_3 + a_1a_2)\mathcal{L}_1 + 2(a_2^2 + a_2a_3 + a_1a_2)\mathcal{L}_2 \\
& + 2a_1a_2a_3 - 2a_1a_2^2 - 2a_2^2a_3 - a_2a_3^2 - a_2a_1^2 - a_2^3,
\end{aligned}$$

where the a_j are the parameters in the potential. To perform a general Stäckel transform of this system with nonsingular transform matrix $C = (c_{jk})$: 1) we set $a_j = \sum_{k=1}^3 c_{jk}b_k$, $k = 1, 2, 3$ where the b_k are the new parameters, 2) we make the replacements $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow -b_3$, $b_3 \rightarrow -\mathcal{H}$ and 3) we set all parameters $b_j = 0$ to determine the free quadratic algebra. The result is

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{R}^2 = & \mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2^2 + (c_{23} + c_{33})\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{H} + (c_{13} + 3c_{23} + c_{33})\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H} + (c_{13} + c_{23})\mathcal{L}_2^2\mathcal{H} \\
& + 2(c_{13}c_{23} + c_{23}^2 + c_{23}c_{33})\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H} + 2(c_{13}c_{23} + c_{23}^2 + c_{23}c_{33})\mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H}^2 \\
& + (c_{13}^2c_{23} + 2c_{13}c_{23}^2 - 2c_{13}c_{23}c_{33} + c_{23}^3 + 2c_{23}^2c_{33} + c_{23}c_{33}^2)\mathcal{H}^3.
\end{aligned}$$

We put this in canonical form by making the choices $\mathcal{L}_1 = X_1 + (c_{23} + c_{13})\mathcal{H}$, $\mathcal{L}_2 = X_2 + (c_{33} + c_{23})\mathcal{H}$. The final result is

$$\begin{aligned}
[1111]: \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = & X_1^2X_2 + X_1X_2^2 - (c_{13} + c_{23} + c_{33})X_1X_2\mathcal{H} + c_{13}(c_{23} - c_{33})X_1\mathcal{H}^2 \\
& + c_{33}(c_{23} - c_{13})X_2\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{13}c_{33}(c_{33} + c_{13} - c_{23})\mathcal{H}^3.
\end{aligned} \tag{64}$$

The possible canonical forms in Table 1 associated with the equivalence class [1111] depend on the possible choices of c_{ij} with $\det C \neq 0$. The possible canonical forms are: $1a$: $|c_8| + |c_9| > 0$, $1b$: $c_9 = 0, 1$, $1d$: all cases. The superintegrable system $E1$, with nondegenerate potential, can be defined by

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 \mathcal{H} + \mathcal{L}_2^2 \mathcal{L}_1 - a_3 \mathcal{H}^2 - 2a_3 \mathcal{L}_2 \mathcal{H} - (a_3 + a_2) \mathcal{L}_2^2 - a_1 \mathcal{L}_1^2 + 4a_1 a_2 a_3.$$

Going through the same procedure as above, we obtain the equivalence class

$$[211] : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = X_1^2 X_2 + c_{13} X_2^2 \mathcal{H} - 2c_{13}(c_{23} + c_{33}) X_2 \mathcal{H}^2 + c_{13}(c_{23} - c_{33})^2 \mathcal{H}^3. \quad (65)$$

The canonical forms associated with this equivalence class are $2b$: $c_9 = c_{10} = 0$, $2c$: all cases, $2d$: all cases, $2e$: all cases. The superintegrable system $E8$, with nondegenerate potential, can be defined by

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_2^2 \mathcal{L}_1 - a_2 \mathcal{H} \mathcal{L}_2 + 4a_1 a_3 \mathcal{L}_1 + a_1 \mathcal{H}^2 - a_3 a_2^2.$$

The equivalence class is

$$[22] : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = X_1^2 X_2 + 4c_{13} c_{33} X_2 \mathcal{H}^2 + c_{33} c_{23}^2 \mathcal{H}^3. \quad (66)$$

The canonical form associated with this equivalence class is $2a$: all cases.

The superintegrable system $E2$ can be defined by

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{H}^2 - 2\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{H} + a_1 \mathcal{L}_2 \mathcal{H} - a_1 \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 + 4a_3 \mathcal{L}_2^2 + 4a_3 a_2 \mathcal{L}_1 - \frac{1}{4} a_1^2 a_2.$$

The equivalence class is

$$[31] : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = X_1^3 + (c_{13} X_1 X_2 + 4c_{33} X_2^2) \mathcal{H} + 4c_{33} c_{23} X_1 \mathcal{H}^2 + \frac{1}{4} c_{13}^2 c_{23} \mathcal{H}^3. \quad (67)$$

The canonical forms associated with this equivalence class are $3d$: all cases, $3e$: $c_{10} = 0$, $3f$: all cases, $3g$: $c_{10} = 0$.

The superintegrable system $E10$ can be defined by

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{L}_1^3 + 2a_1 \mathcal{L}_1^2 - a_3 \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 + a_3 \mathcal{H}^2 + 2a_2 \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{H} + 2a_1 a_2 \mathcal{H} + a_1^2 \mathcal{L}_1 + a_2^2 \mathcal{L}_2.$$

The equivalence class contains

$$[4] : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = X_1^3 + c_{33} X_1 X_2 \mathcal{H} + (c_{23}^2 + \frac{2}{3} c_{13} c_{33}) X_2 \mathcal{H}^2 + \frac{2c_{13}^2}{3} (\frac{8}{9} c_{13} + \frac{c_{23}^2}{c_{33}}) \mathcal{H}^3, \quad (68)$$

if $c_{33} \neq 0$. If $c_{33} = 0$, $c_{23} \neq 0$ it contains

$$[4]' : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = X_1^3 - \frac{1}{3} c_{13}^2 X_1 \mathcal{H}^2 + c_{23}^2 X_2 \mathcal{H}^2,$$

and if $c_{33} = c_{23} = 0$ (in which case $c_{13} \neq 0$) it contains

$$[4]'' : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = X_1^3 - \frac{1}{3} c_{13}^2 X_1 \mathcal{H}^2 + \frac{2}{27} c_{13}^3 \mathcal{H}^3.$$

The canonical form associated with $[4]$ is $3d$: $c_{10} = 1$. The canonical form associated with $[4]'$ is $3c$: all cases, and the canonical form associated with $[4]''$ is $3a$: $c_{10} \neq 0$. The superintegrable system $E3'$ can be defined by

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = -4a_1(\mathcal{L}_1^2 + \mathcal{L}_2^2 - \mathcal{L}_2 \mathcal{H}) - 2a_2 a_3 \mathcal{L}_1 + (a_2^2 - a_3^2) \mathcal{L}_2 + a_3^2 \mathcal{H}$$

The canonical form is

$$[0] : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = 4c_{13}(X_1^2 + X_2^2) \mathcal{H} - \frac{(c_{23}^2 + c_{33}^2)}{16c_{13}} \mathcal{H}^3, \quad (69)$$

if $c_{13} \neq 0$; if $c_{13} = 0$ it is

$$[0]' : \quad \mathcal{R}^2 = -2c_{23} c_{33} X_1 \mathcal{H}^2 + (c_{23}^2 - c_{33}^2) X_2 \mathcal{H}^2.$$

The canonical forms associated with $[0]$ are $4d$: all cases, $4e$: all cases, and the canonical forms associated with $[0]'$ are $4f$: all cases.

These results are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Matching of geometric with abstract quadratic algebras.

Class	Canonical form		
1	$a : c_8 + c_9 > 0$	$b : c_9 = 0, 1$	$d : \text{all cases}$
2	$a : \text{all cases}$	$b : c_9 = c_{10} = 0$	$c : \text{all cases}$
2	$d : \text{all cases}$	$e : \text{all cases}$	
3	$a : c_{10} \neq 0$	$c : \text{all cases}$	$d : \text{all cases}$
3	$e : c_{10} = 0$	$f : \text{all cases}$	$g : \text{all cases}$
4	$d : \text{all cases}$	$e : \text{all cases}$	$f : \text{all cases}$

6 The quadratic algebras of the free 2D second order superintegrable systems and their contractions

In this section we list all canonical forms of the Casimirs of the quadratic algebras of free nondegenerate 2D superintegrable systems on a constant curvature space or a Darboux space. We list the canonical forms arising from superintegrable systems on a constant curvature spaces in Table 3 and those arising from superintegrable systems on a Darboux space in Table 4. Then we study contractions between these quadratic algebras.

Table 3. Canonical forms of the Casimirs of quadratic algebras of free nondegenerate 2D superintegrable systems that lie inside $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{so}(3, \mathbb{C}))$ and $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{e}(2, \mathbb{C}))$

System	Canonical forms of \mathcal{R}^2
\tilde{E}_{17}	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{E}_{16}	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{L}_2^2$
\tilde{E}_1	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{E}_8	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{E}'_3	0
\tilde{E}_2	$\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_1 + \frac{2i}{3\sqrt{3}} \mathcal{H}^3$
\tilde{E}_7	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2, \forall a$
\tilde{E}_9	$\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_1 + \frac{2i}{3\sqrt{3}} \mathcal{H}^3$
\tilde{E}_{11}	$\mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_1$
\tilde{E}_{10}	\mathcal{L}_1^3
\tilde{E}_{15}	\mathcal{L}_1^3
\tilde{E}_{20}	$\mathcal{H} \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{E}_{19}	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{S}_9	$\mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 (\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{S}_4	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{S}_7	$\mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 (\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_1 - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{H}^2 \mathcal{L}_2 - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{H}^3$
\tilde{S}_8	$\mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 (\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H} \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{S}_2	$\mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2$
\tilde{S}_1	\mathcal{L}_1^3

Table 4. Canonical forms of the Casimirs of quadratic algebras of free nondegenerate 2D Darboux superintegrable systems.

System	Canonical forms of \mathcal{R}^2
$\tilde{D}1A, b = 0$	$\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2$
$\tilde{D}1A, b \neq 0$	$\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}^3$
$\tilde{D}1B$	$\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2$
$\tilde{D}1C$	$\mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$
$\tilde{D}2A$	$\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1 + \frac{2i}{3\sqrt{3}}\mathcal{H}^3$
$\tilde{D}2B$	$\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_2 + i\mathcal{H}^3$
$\tilde{D}2C$	$\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_2$
$\tilde{D}3A$	$\mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}^3$
$\tilde{D}3B$	$\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_2$
$\tilde{D}3C$	$\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_2$
$\tilde{D}3D$	$\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1^2 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_2^2 + i3\sqrt{2}\mathcal{H}^3$
$\tilde{D}4A$	$\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2$
$\tilde{D}4(b)B, b \neq 0$	$\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2 + \frac{b^2-4}{4b^2}\mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$
$\tilde{D}4(b)B, b = 0$	$\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$
$\tilde{D}4(b)C, b \neq 0$	$\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2 + \frac{1}{b^2}\mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$
$\tilde{D}4(b)C, b = 0$	$\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$

7 Abstract contractions of nondegenerate quadratic algebras arising from 2D second order superintegrable systems on constant curvature spaces and Darboux spaces

We first recall the definition of contraction of quadratic algebras.

Definition 3. Let \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{A}_0 be quadratic algebras with generating sets $\{\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2\}$ and $\{\mathcal{H}^0, \mathcal{L}_1^0, \mathcal{L}_2^0\}$ respectively, satisfying the conditions of definition 2. Let $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2)$ be the realization of the Casimir of \mathcal{A} in the generating set $\{\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2\}$ and similarly $\mathcal{F}^0(\mathcal{H}^0, \mathcal{L}_1^0, \mathcal{L}_2^0)$ the Casimir of \mathcal{A}_0 in the generating set $\{\mathcal{H}^0, \mathcal{L}_1^0, \mathcal{L}_2^0\}$. We say that \mathcal{A}_0 is a contraction of \mathcal{A} if there is a continuous curve

$$(0, 1] \longrightarrow G, \quad \epsilon \longmapsto A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1}(\epsilon) & A_{1,2}(\epsilon) & A_{1,3}(\epsilon) \\ A_{2,1}(\epsilon) & A_{2,2}(\epsilon) & A_{2,3}(\epsilon) \\ 0 & 0 & A_{3,3}(\epsilon) \end{pmatrix} \quad (70)$$

such that

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} A(\epsilon) \cdot F(X_1, X_2, X_3) = F^0(X_1, X_2, X_3) \quad (71)$$

Note that the action of G is defined in (41).

Note that if \mathcal{A}_0 is a contraction of \mathcal{A} then \mathcal{A}_0 is in the closure of the orbit of G that contains \mathcal{A} .

7.1 Contractions of quadratic algebras

In this section we study contractions between the quadratic algebras that arise from free nondegenerate 2D second order superintegrable system on a constant curvature space or a Darboux space. As we shall see below there are essentially 18 relevant quadratic algebras for classification purposes. For any two such quadratic algebras one can ask weather there is a contraction from one to the other. In principal there are $324 = 18^2$ cases to consider. We have studied most of these cases but our results do not give a complete classification. We discuss our results in more details below. We shall give several contractions explicitly and write all those contractions that we were able to find in a diagram. At the end of this section we shall compare abstract contractions with Bôcher contractions.

7.1.1 The relevant quadratic algebras

We first note that some quadratic algebras of different superintegrable systems coincide:

1. $\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2$: $\tilde{S}_8, \tilde{S}_9, \tilde{D}4(b = \pm 2)C$
2. $\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$: $\tilde{D}4(b = 0)B, \tilde{D}4(b = 0)C$
3. $\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2 + \gamma\mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$: $\tilde{D}4(\gamma = b^{-2})B, \tilde{D}4(\gamma = \frac{b^2-4}{4b^2})C$
4. $\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_2$: $\tilde{D}2C, \tilde{D}3B, \tilde{D}3C$
5. $\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2$: $\tilde{E}_{17}, \tilde{E}_8, \tilde{S}_2, \tilde{S}_4, \tilde{E}_7, \tilde{D}4A$
6. $\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_2$: $\tilde{E}_1, \tilde{E}_{19}$
7. \mathcal{L}_1^3 : $\tilde{E}_{10}, \tilde{E}_{15}, \tilde{S}_1$
8. $\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1 + i\frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}}\mathcal{H}^3$: $\tilde{E}_2, \tilde{E}_9, \tilde{D}2A$
9. $\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2$: $\tilde{D}1A(b = 0), \tilde{D}1B$
10. $\mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{L}_1$: $\tilde{E}_{11}, \tilde{D}1C$

Hence it is enough to consider the eighteen quadratic algebras:

$$\begin{aligned} &\tilde{E}_{17}, \tilde{E}_{16}, \tilde{E}_1, \tilde{E}'_3, \tilde{E}_2, \tilde{E}_{11}, \tilde{E}_{10}, \tilde{E}_{20}, \tilde{S}_9, \tilde{S}_7, \tilde{D}4C(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}4C(b = 0), \tilde{D}2B, \\ &\tilde{D}2C, \tilde{D}1A(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}1A(b = 0), \tilde{D}3A, \tilde{D}3D. \end{aligned}$$

We divide the quadratic algebras into four sets according to the highest non-vanishing $F^{(i)}$ term in the decomposition

$$\mathcal{R}^2 = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2) = \mathcal{F}^{(3)}(\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{F}^{(2)}(\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}^2\mathcal{F}^{(1)}(\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2) + \mathcal{H}^3\mathcal{F}^{(0)},$$

Explicitly we define

- Subset A : $F^{(3)} \neq 0$: $\tilde{E}_{17}, \tilde{E}_{16}, \tilde{E}_1, \tilde{E}_2, \tilde{E}_{10}, \tilde{S}_9, \tilde{S}_7, \tilde{D}4C(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}4C(b = 0), \tilde{D}2B, \tilde{D}2C, \tilde{D}1A(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}1A(b = 0), \tilde{D}3D$
- Subset B : $F^{(3)} = 0, F^{(2)} \neq 0$: $\tilde{E}_{20}, \tilde{D}3A$
- Subset C : $F^{(3)} = F^{(2)} = 0, F^{(1)} \neq 0$: \tilde{E}_{11}
- Subset D : $F^{(3)} = F^{(2)} = F^{(1)} = 0$: \tilde{E}'_3

Since $F^{(3)}$ is a homogeneous polynomial of degree three in two variables, it has exactly three roots (zeros) on \mathbb{CP}^1 counting multiplicities. We divide subset A according to the number of different roots of $F^{(3)}$ as follows.

- Three distinct roots, subset A_1 : $\tilde{S}_9, \tilde{S}_7, \tilde{D}4C(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}4C(b = 0)$
- A repeated root, subset A_2 : $\tilde{E}_{17}, \tilde{E}_{16}, \tilde{E}_1, \tilde{D}2B, \tilde{D}2C, \tilde{D}3D$
- A triple root, subset A_3 : $\tilde{E}_2, \tilde{E}_{10}, \tilde{D}1A(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}1A(b = 0)$

7.1.2 Some general observations on contractions of quadratic algebras

Note that the group

$$G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} & A_{1,3} \\ A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & A_{2,3} \\ 0 & 0 & A_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \in GL(3, \mathbb{C}) \right\} \quad (72)$$

is a complex algebraic group. The formula

$$(A \cdot \mathcal{F})(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \det(A_2)^2 \mathcal{F}(A^{-1}(x_1, x_2, x_3)) \quad (73)$$

defines an algebraic action of G on the complex algebraic variety $\mathbb{C}^{[3]}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$, of homogeneous polynomials of degree three in three variables. It is well known (see e.g. section 1.8 in [28]) that any orbit is an algebraic variety and the boundary of any orbit is also an algebraic variety of a smaller dimension. From this consideration it is clear that if O_1 and O_2 are two orbits such that $O_2 \subset \overline{O_1} \setminus O_1$ then $O_1 \not\subset \overline{O_2}$. This imply that we have a partial order by inclusion of orbit closure. In our language this implies that if a quadratic algebra B is a contraction of a quadratic algebra A and A and B are not isomorphic then A is not a contraction of B . Hence for any contraction of quadratic algebras between non isomorphic ones we automatically get a proof of the nonexistence of a contraction in the opposite direction.

Furthermore, under the action of G on $\mathbb{C}^{[3]}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ the sets $A, A_1, A_2, A_3, B, C, D$ are stable and hence consists of a union of orbits. It is easy to see that the hierarchy of the orbits allow us to consider contractions only in the following direction

$$A_1 \longrightarrow A_2 \longrightarrow A_3 \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow D$$

We further note that every quadratic algebra can be contracted to \tilde{E}'_3 and \tilde{E}'_3 can not be contracted further, hence we shall ignore this system. In the rest of this section we realize many contraction of quadratic algebras and demonstrate how one can prove that some contractions do not exist. At the end of the section we summarize our results in a diagram.

7.2 Explicit contractions

Using matrices of the form

$$A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon \end{pmatrix}^{-1}, \quad A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon \end{pmatrix}^{-1}, \quad A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \epsilon^{-2} & \epsilon^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon^{-3} \end{pmatrix}^{-1},$$

$$A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^{-2} & \epsilon^{-1}/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ \epsilon^{-2} & -\epsilon^{-1}/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}, \quad A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon^{-3} \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$$

we can (respectively) realize contractions of the following forms:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + O(\mathcal{H}) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 : D_{3D}, D_{2C}, D_{2B}, E_{16}, E_1 \longrightarrow E_{17} \\ \mathcal{L}_1^3 + O(\mathcal{H}) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_1^3 : D_{1A}, D_{1A}, E_2 \longrightarrow E_{10} \\ \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 + O(\mathcal{H}) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_1^3 : D_{3D}, D_{2C}, D_{2B}, E_{16}, E_1, E_{17} \longrightarrow E_{10} \\ \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 (\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + O(\mathcal{H}) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_1^3 : S_9, S_7, D_{4C}, D_{4C} \longrightarrow E_{10} \\ \mathcal{L}_1 \mathcal{L}_2 (\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2) + O(\mathcal{H}) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_1^2 \mathcal{L}_2 : S_9, S_7, D_{4C}, D_{4C} \longrightarrow E_{17} \end{aligned}$$

To get an idea of the type of contractions that exist, below we list realizations of all other abstract contractions of S_9 that we have found.

Contraction of S_9 to E_{20} : $A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon^2 \end{pmatrix}.$

Contraction of S_9 to E_1 : $A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^{-1} & 0 & -i\epsilon^{-1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2i\epsilon^{-1} \end{pmatrix}^{-1}.$

Contraction of S_9 to E_{11} : $A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon^{-1} & -\epsilon^{-3/2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}.$

Contraction of S_9 to E_2 : $A(\epsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} 64\epsilon^2 & 64\epsilon^2 & 64\epsilon^2 + i\frac{128}{\sqrt{3}}\epsilon \\ i8\epsilon & -i8\epsilon & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i128\sqrt{3}\epsilon \end{pmatrix}.$

7.3 Non-contractions

Here we demonstrate how one can show that there are some quadratic algebras that can not be contracted to some others.

Non-contraction of E_{10} to E_{11} : Under a transformation of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}_1 \\ \mathcal{L}_2 \\ \mathcal{H} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\epsilon) & \beta(\epsilon) & a(\epsilon) \\ \gamma(\epsilon) & \delta(\epsilon) & b(\epsilon) \\ 0 & 0 & c(\epsilon) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}_1^\epsilon \\ \mathcal{L}_2^\epsilon \\ \mathcal{H}^\epsilon \end{pmatrix} = A \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L}_1^\epsilon \\ \mathcal{L}_2^\epsilon \\ \mathcal{H}^\epsilon \end{pmatrix} \quad (74)$$

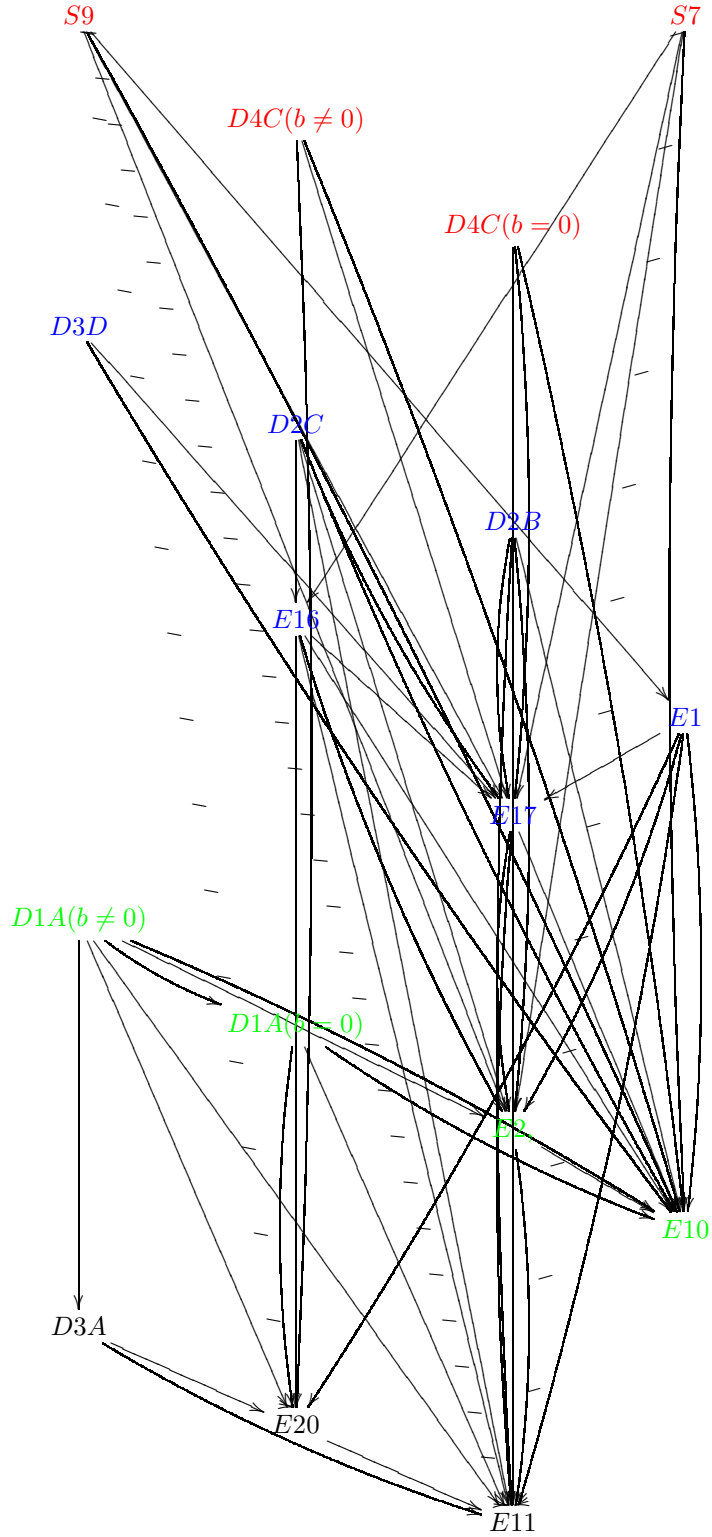
We let $(\alpha\delta - \beta\gamma) = |A|$ and we denote the coefficient of $\mathcal{L}_1^i \mathcal{L}_2^j \mathcal{L}_3^k$ in the transformed expression for \mathcal{R}^2 by $C_{i,j,k}$. Then we see that

$$C_{3,0,0} = \frac{\alpha^3}{A^2} \longrightarrow 0, \quad C_{2,0,1} = \frac{3a^2\alpha}{A^2} \longrightarrow 1, \quad C_{0,0,3} = \frac{a^3}{A^2} \longrightarrow 0,$$

which imply that $\frac{\alpha}{a} \longrightarrow 0$, $\frac{a}{\alpha} \longrightarrow 0$, which is a contradiction.

All abstract contractions relating free constant curvature and Darboux quadratic algebras are listed in Diagram 1. There is an abstract contraction of $Q(A)$ to $Q(B)$ if and only if there is an arrow in the diagram pointing from A to B .

Diagram 1: Abstract contractions relating free nondegenerate 2D quadratic algebras



7.4 Comparison between abstract contractions and Bôcher contractions

In this section we compare abstract contractions and Bôcher contractions. In previous sections we studied abstract contractions between the quadratic algebras of the free 2D nondegenerate second order

superintegrable systems:

$$\begin{aligned} &\tilde{E}_{17}, \tilde{E}_{16}, \tilde{E}_1, \tilde{E}'_3, \tilde{E}_2, \tilde{E}_{11}, \tilde{E}_{10}, \tilde{E}_{20}, \tilde{S}_9, \tilde{S}_7, \tilde{D}4C(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}4C(b = 0), \tilde{D}2B, \\ &\tilde{D}2C, \tilde{D}1A(b \neq 0), \tilde{D}1A(b = 0), \tilde{D}3A, \tilde{D}3D. \end{aligned}$$

By abuse of notation we denoted a superintegrable system and its corresponding free quadratic algebra by the same symbol (One of those 18 options above). It should be noted that different superintegrable systems may have the same free quadratic algebra, as was shown in section 7.1.1. For this section we shall use the symbol $\tilde{S}9$ to denote the superintegrable system on the complex two sphere and use the symbol $Q(\tilde{S}9)$ to denote the free quadratic algebra of $\tilde{S}9$. Similar conventions will be used for all other systems. For example,

$$Q(\tilde{E}_{17}) = Q(\tilde{E}_8) = Q(\tilde{S}_2) = Q(\tilde{S}_4) = Q(\tilde{E}_7) = Q(\tilde{D}4A).$$

As we just observed superintegrable systems that share the same free quadratic algebra can still live on different manifolds. Note that in general superintegrable systems with identical free quadratic algebras are not even related by a Stäckel transform. In the above mentioned cases, \tilde{E}_{17} , \tilde{E}_8 , and \tilde{E}_7 belong to the same Stäckel equivalence class which is not the Stäckel equivalence class of the (Stäckel equivalent) systems \tilde{S}_2 , \tilde{S}_4 , and $\tilde{D}4A$. Since classification of all abstract quadratic algebras is not complete we cannot simply compare Bôcher contractions and abstract contractions of quadratic algebras. Instead we are led to ask the following.

Question: Let A and B be 2D second order nondegenerate superintegrable systems. Suppose that there is a contraction of free abstract quadratic algebras $Q(A) \rightarrow Q(B)$. Are there necessarily superintegrable systems A' and B' such that

1. $Q(A) = Q(A')$, $Q(B) = Q(B')$,
2. There is a Bôcher contraction from A' to B' .

The answer is no. Indeed the following 7 abstract contractions have no geometric counterpart as Bôcher contractions:

1. $Q(S7) \rightarrow Q(E16)$
2. $Q(D4C) = Q(D4B) \rightarrow Q(E20)$
3. $Q(D2C) = Q(D3B) = Q(D3C) \rightarrow Q(E16)$
4. $Q(E16) \rightarrow Q(E20)$
5. $Q(E17) = Q(E8) = Q(S2) = Q(S4) = Q(E7) = Q(D4A) \rightarrow Q(E20)$
6. $Q(D1A) \rightarrow Q(D3A)$
7. $Q(D3A) \rightarrow Q(E20)$

These contractions are indicated in Diagram 1. In Table 1 of [4] all Bôcher contractions of these systems are given. In these cases there is no chain of Bôcher contractions linking any of the origin systems to the target system.

However, there are ways that these abstract contractions can have practical significance. In the paper [30] Post shows that the structure equations for all of the quantum 2D quadratic algebras can be satisfied (modeled) by either differential or difference operators depending on one complex variable. There are also classical analogs of these models. In some cases a model of one quadratic algebra contracts to a model of another quadratic algebra, even though there is no geometrical counterpart. An example of this can be found in [5] where the Askey scheme is described through contraction of a difference operator model of $S9$ to differential and difference operator models of other quadratic algebras. In particular, there is a contraction of $E3'$ to itself which has no geometrical counterpart but where the difference operator model contraction yields Charlier polynomials as limits of Krawtchouk polynomials. Thus abstract quadratic algebras and their contractions can be realized and shown to have practical significance through the use of models.

7.5 Contractions between geometric quadratic algebras and abstract quadratic algebras.

In section 5.4 we identified the canonical forms of the geometric quadratic algebras inside the space of all canonical forms of abstract quadratic algebras. In this section we give examples for contractions between geometric and abstract quadratic algebras.

7.5.1 Contraction of an abstract quadratic algebra to a geometric one

There are plenty of such contractions. The canonical forms of the geometric system \tilde{E}_{17} is given by $\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2$. As noted in section 5.4 (and following the labeling of table 1), the case of $2a$, that is, a canonical form that is given by

$$\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H}^2 + \mathcal{L}_2\mathcal{H}^2 + c_{10}\mathcal{H}^3$$

with $c_{10} \in \mathbb{C}$ is not arising from any free 2D, second order nondegenerate superintegrable system. The matrices $A(\epsilon) = \text{diag}(1, 1, \epsilon^{-1})$ contract any of the systems above to the geometric system $\mathcal{L}_1^2\mathcal{L}_2$. Similarly, the same matrices realize contractions from the non-geometric quadratic algebras with canonical forms: $3a$ with $c_{10} = 0$: $\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{H}^2$, $3b$: $\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}^3$, and $3e$ with $c_{10} = 1$: $\mathcal{L}_1^3 + \mathcal{H}\mathcal{L}_2^2 + \mathcal{H}^3$ to \mathcal{L}_1^3 that arises from the superintegrable system \tilde{E}_{10} .

7.5.2 Contraction of a geometric quadratic algebra to a non-geometric one

As noted in section 5.4 the canonical form $1c$, $\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2)$ is not arising from any free 2D, second order nondegenerate superintegrable system. The matrices $A(\epsilon) = \text{diag}(1, 1, \epsilon^{-1})$ realize contractions from the geometric quadratic algebras $\tilde{D}4(b)B$, $\tilde{D}4(b)C$ (with any value of b), \tilde{S}_7 and \tilde{S}_9 to $\mathcal{L}_1\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2)$. There are many other examples.

8 Conclusions and discussion

In this paper we have solved the problem of classifying all 2D nondegenerate abstract quadratic algebras, and have made major steps in determining which of these can be realized as the symmetry algebras of 2D 2nd order superintegrable systems with nondegenerate potential. We have given a precise definition and classification of Bôcher contractions, which are the principle mechanisms for relating superintegrable systems via limit relations. We have made major steps toward a classification of contractions of abstract quadratic algebras and determining which of these can be realized as Bôcher contractions. In each case we have found some abstract algebras and contractions that cannot be realized geometrically as superintegrable systems or as Bôcher contractions. We know that some of these cases correspond to contractions of models irreducible representations of quadratic algebras belonging to superintegrable systems where the algebraic representations contract, but the geometrical systems do not. They already occur in the Askey scheme. However, other cases are as yet unclear. Do these correspond to quadratic algebras associated with higher order superintegrable systems? Do they have interesting one-variable models? It is our experience that superintegrable systems of any sort have physical applications, so we expect some to emerge here.

Up to now we have only classified abstract contractions of quadratic algebras that arise from superintegrable systems on constant curvature and Darboux spaces. We have not yet solved the problem of classifying contractions of abstract quadratic algebras that do not arise in this way, though the Bôcher contractions are known.

One can see from the tables in [4] that in general there are often multiple distinct contractions that link two geometric quadratic algebras., even multiple distinct contractions that take a quadratic algebra to itself. The abstract contractions classified here should be thought of as providing existence proofs that a contraction between two abstract quadratic algebras does or does not exist, not giving information on the multiplicities of such contractions.

In a paper under preparation we classify all abstract 2D 2nd order superintegrable systems with degenerate potential and, in this case, work out *all* possible abstract contractions and compare the results with those for Bôcher contractions of geometric superintegrable systems.

All of the concepts introduced here are clearly also applicable for dimensions $n \geq 3$, [29]. Indeed, this paper can be considered as preparation for these more complicated cases.

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